THE TIMES

30P

No. 65,471 TUESDAY JANUARY 9 1996

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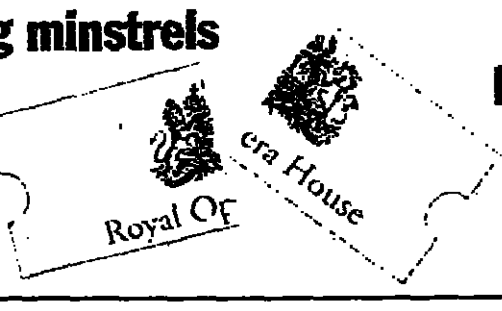

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Election planning in confusion

'Women only' Labour seats ruled illegal

By Philip Webster, Paul Wilkinson and Frances Gibb

LABOUR'S election planning was thrown into confusion yesterday when its policy of preventing men from standing in dozens of parliamentary seats was declared illegal.

The party immediately froze the selection process in 14 constituencies, nine of which were close to making a choice from women-only shortlists. *But it is almost certain to* appeal against an industrial *tribunal's judgment that the* policy amounted to sexual *discrimination.*

Labour also claimed that *the ruling would not affect the* 34 seats where women have already been chosen to fight the next election. It is confident that the judgment cannot be retrospective, and other unsuccessful would-be candidates are thought unlikely to lodge discrimination claims.

The Leeds tribunal's decision is nevertheless an embarrassing blow to the leadership and it was greeted gleefully by the Conservatives, whose deputy chairman, Michael Trend, derided the policy as a "blatant exercise in sexism and political correctness".

Under the scheme, introduced two years ago, half the candidates in "winnable" seats and half where the MP is retiring, have to be women. Tony Blair had already made plain that the rule would apply *only for the current* Parliament, and many in the *male-dominated Parliamentary* Labour Party will privately *be pleased at the ruling.* But with an election possible with*in months,* the last thing Mr Blair wants is for constituen*cies to be left without candi*dates while a legal dispute is *resolved.*

Peter Jepson, left, and Roger Dyas-Elliott

Yesterday's ruling is not *binding on other cases, but it* is regarded as a good indica*tion of how the courts would* regard the issue. Labour may *now* lodge an appeal to the Employment Appeal Tribunal for a definitive ruling, but it will also have to weigh up the practicalities of becoming embroiled in further legal action as the election looms.

An appeal could take anything up to 20 months — well past the latest date for an election — and although the appeal tribunal could give a binding ruling, any such decision would probably be challenged in higher courts. If an election were called in the meantime, Labour would swiftly have to impose candidates, who would be denied the advantage of getting to know the electorate.

The case had been brought by Peter Jepson, 45, and Roger *Dyas-Elliott,* 49, *who were* supported in their challenge *by the Equal Opportunities* Commission. They claimed that the shortlists amounted to unfair discrimination and contradicted party policy which stated that Labour aimed to "promote equality of opportunity".

After a two-day hearing last month, the tribunal chairman, John Prophet, said Labour's policy amounted to sexual discrimination, but the tribunal did not use its powers to award compensation or order any action to remedy the bias.

Mr Jepson, a law lecturer *who was rejected by two* London constituencies, de*scribed the decision as the* death knell for all-women *shortlists and* said that he might reapply.

But Mr Dyas-Elliott said he would not force the Keighley Labour Party in West Yorkshire to reconsider him. He would support the widow of the constituency's former MP Bob Cryer who has been selected to fight the seat. "I do not want to rock the boat, but I see this as a moral victory and I don't want any redress."

Tom Sawyer, Labour's general secretary, expressed surprise at the ruling, which he described as a setback. "We do not believe it to be correct and we have proceeded throughout in the belief we have been acting in accordance with the law," he said. "*We will be* urgently and seriously considering with *our legal advisers* the question of an appeal.

"*We respect the tribunal* declaration and accordingly, *for the time being,* we will put all outstanding all-women *shortlists on hold* until we have had time to consider the judgment." Other officials emphasised that suspending the selections did not imply

Continued on page 2, col 4

JUSTIN SUTCLIFFE

Times Square, almost deserted yesterday as 22 inches of snow covered New York. The usually violent city has had no murders since Saturday

New York muggers frozen off streets

From James Bone in New York

THE weather in New York was so bad yesterday that even the muggers stayed at home. Police said that the city, which usually has three or four *murders a day, had seen no* homicides, stabbings or rob*beries since Saturday night.*

Officers did venture out into *the blizzard to check reports* that naked people were hurling snowballs at each other. The belligerents turned out to be visitors from California, where the temperature was 89F. Asked if the police arrested them, one officer confided: "Nah, we just watched."

The heavy snow brought good luck for some city car-buyers. As a publicity stunt, *Potamkin Automotive Centre* promised customers they *could have cars they had* recently leased free if more *than four inches of snow* fell in Central Park yesterday. The dealer will now have to pay leases of up to $800 (£516) a month on about 100 luxury sedans. He says he is insured.

The worst blizzard in decades dumped up to three feet of snow along the East Coast yesterday, smothering cities from Washington to Boston. With 22 inches blanketing New York, the Big Apple was *transformed into a country* hamlet with no cars, no crime *and residents skiing in the* streets. Normally timorous *neighbours exchanged greet*ings, and strangers strolling *on Fifth Avenue swapped* "high five" handshakes.

Schools closed, New York harbour turned ships away, the United Nations shut down and most of the New York commodity exchanges took the day off. The New York Stock Exchange opened for just three hours. Even the local ice-hockey team cancelled its game. Snowdrifts up to 20 feet high and "white-out" condi*tions left thousands stranded* at the city's three international *airports, and flights from* Europe were diverted to as far away as Maine. Passengers on one New York-bound train got stuck for six hours when overhead electrical cables failed.

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani declared a "snow emergency" and appealed to the city's inhabitants to stay at home. "This is a very, very dangerous situation," he said. "Everyone can look out their window and see that." The vicious Northeaster cut a swathe through Kentucky, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, *Connecticut and* Massachusetts with more than 24 hours of continuous snowfall.

Fred Gadomski, a meteorologist at Penn State University, predicted that the blizzard would be the "greatest snowstorm" to hit the area since records began 125 years ago.

Roads in New Jersey were closed to all but emergency vehicles, and police were authorised to impound cars that ignored the ban.

23 die, Page 8

Lynch mob grabs jet crash crew

An angry crowd tried to lynch four Russian crew members of a cargo plane that crashed into a crowded market in Zaire, killing more than 250 people, most of them women and children.

The police saved the four from the mob and took them into custody, while fellow officers were looking for a Ukrainian and a Zairean who were also in the crew.

Jet crash, page 4

Portillo protest

Michael Portillo has accused enemies in the Conservative Party of running a campaign against him. The assertion swiftly sparked new complaints that he had ignored the Prime Minister's weekend call for a truce in the party

Page 2

Internet Times

The Internet edition of *The Times is now available on* hhtp://www.the-times.co.uk

£14m prize is still unclaimed

By Alexandra Frean
Media Correspondent

AN investigation by the National Lottery organiser has pinpointed when and where tickets were sold to the *mystery winner of a third of* last Saturday's record £42 *million jackpot* who has still not claimed their prize.

Two of the three ticket-holders known to have won £14 million each in Saturday's rollover draw have so far come forward and have asked to remain anonymous.

A spokeswoman for Camelot said that the company had ruled out the possibility that the outstanding winner might be a commercial syndicate. The company estimates that the mystery winner is losing *up to £2,500 in interest every* day.

Lottery award, page 3

World leaders pay tribute after Mitterrand dies at 79

From Ben Macintyre in Paris

WORLD leaders paid tribute *yesterday to François Mitter*rand, the longest-serving *French President, who has* died at the age of 79.

After *a* long battle with prostate cancer, M Mitterrand died in his sleep at 8.30am yesterday morning in the apartment adjoining his Paris office near the Eiffel Tower.

The former Socialist President, who left office in May after two seven-year terms, will be buried after a private service on Thursday at his family's tomb in Jarnac, in southwestern France. Thursday has been declared a national day of mourning, to *be marked by a Mass* at Notre-Dame cathedral in Par*is, which world leaders* are expected to attend.

Former and present heads of state, politicians of all shades, diplomats, enemies *and allies praised the states*man and intellectual who *presided over France for long*er than either Napoleon or Charles de Gaulle.

"He made an outstanding contribution to public life." *John Major said, while ap*plauding the "exceptional *courage* and dignity" with which he faced his final illness.

Mitterrand: record term as President of France

Baroness Thatcher, who shared the world stage with M Mitterrand, not always amicably, for more than a decade, said: "By his bearing and his culture, he came to symbolise . . .something of the essential France".

President Chirac, twice defeated by M Mitterrand in his *bid to become leader,* said: "Over 14 years, M Mitterrand *wrote an important page in* the history of our country."

Reports, pages 10 and 11
Body and Mind, page 14
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Obituary, page 19

Maxwell trial jury retires

By Jon Ashworth

THE jury in the Maxwell trial *spent last night in a hotel* after retiring and considering its verdict for 4½ hours.

The seven women and five *men* have heard more than 70 witnesses in the 121-day trial of Kevin and Ian Maxwell — the sons of the late media magnate Robert Maxwell — and Larry Trachtenberg, a former adviser to the Maxwell.

Kevin Maxwell, 36, the only defendant to give evidence, denies conspiring with his father to defraud pensioners of *shares worth £100 million* in Scitex Corporation, an Israeli *computer imaging firm.*

With his brother, Ian, 39, and Mr Trachtenberg, 42, he also denies conspiring to defraud pensioners of shares worth £22 million in another Israeli company, Teva Pharmaceutical Industries.

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Rottweiler Fritz lands NHS with bill of £1,700

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Correspondent

AN NHS trust paid £1,700 to import the family dog belonging to a consultant anaesthetist as part of a salary package to lure him from America, it was disclosed last night.

The Hartlepool and Peterlee NHS Trust paid the cost of transporting the consultant's Jeep as well as an air ticket for Fritz the rottweiler.

The deal, criticised yesterday as an example of "the free-market NHS gone mad", highlights one example of the lengths to which trusts are now having to go in order to secure medical staff in shortage specialities.

Ian Sproat, the director of personnel for the trust, said: "We go the extra mile. The dog cost more *than the* anaesthetist to bring over — including £1,400 for six months *in quarantine* — but that is not a lot in comparison with what you would have to pay a firm of head-hunters." The anaesthetist is to be paid a salary of £52,440.

A survey by the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts *found that anaesthetists,* paediatricians and accident and emergency *consultants among those in* shortest supply. Chief executives are *seeking consultants in South Africa,* America and Germany and are offer*ing relocation awards of up to* £2,000.

*The basic NHS salary for a consul*tant ranges from £45,000 to £55,000 without a merit award and before *private earnings. However, critics fear* that putting an end to the pay *structure that has dominated the* NHS for 50 years will increase fragmenta*tion and raise costs.*

Bob Abberley, the head of health at Unison, the NHS staffs union, said: "Whatever this individual's qualities, *this is the NHS market gone mad.* The solution to national shortages is to *train up more people in the specialties,* not to go shopping abroad."

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هكذا من الأصل

مكتب الأصل

Shephard sanctions more selection in state schools

Shephard: will allow schools to set own tests

By John O'Leary
EDUCATION EDITOR

GILLIAN SHEPHARD announced a decisive shift towards selection in state schools yesterday when she proposed allowing one in seven pupils to be chosen on academic ability.

The Education and Employment Secretary issued plans to scrap regulations limiting selection to a narrow range of subjects and raise the number of places that comprehensive schools are able to reserve. Schools would be allowed to set their own tests, as well as interviewing pupils and parents. For the past three years, state schools have been allowed to choose 10 per cent of pupils for aptitude in technology, languages, music, drama or sport without applying for a formal change of character. But ministers have until now drawn a firm distinction between specialisation and general academic selection.

With Labour also embracing specialisation, Mrs Shephard has seized the opportunity to place "clear blue water" between the parties in an area where the Opposition is thought to be vulnerable. As disclosed in *The Times* last November, she proposes to raise the limit to 15 per cent and leave schools to determine their own selection criteria. By halving the length of the circular sent to schools, Mrs Shephard said she was cutting down the "forest of regulation and rigid bureaucracy" surrounding admissions arrangements. The new guidance would cover all state schools, but would be employed mainly by the grant-maintained sector, which until now has had to apply to ministers for any change of character.

The draft circular said Mrs Shephard considered the distinction between subjects available for specialisation "somewhat artificial". She proposed to allow 15 per cent of a school's intake to be selected "in any subject or combination of subjects, or by general ability".

Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats are strongly opposed to academic selection. Mrs Shephard was accused immediately of reducing parental choice and reviving the 11-plus by the back door.

Teacher unions were united in their opposition. David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "Permitting schools to select up to 15 per cent of pupils generally is a substantial extension of selective education by any standards. It risks harming the interests of those pupils whose parents fail to achieve their preference by the operation of selection procedures."

Graham Lane, chairman of the education committee of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said: "The Government is simultaneously abandoning its commitment to parental choice and further undermining the comprehensive principle that every child should have equal access to a good school within reach of their home."

Local Schools Information, a pressure group opposed to opting out, said the extension of selection could be challenged in the courts.

Leading article, page 17

Tory Left plotting against me, says defiant Portillo

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL PORTILLO accused enemies in the Conservative Party of running a campaign against him yesterday. His supporters claimed there was a left-wing plot to end his leadership chances.

A day after John Major called for an end to Tory infighting, the Defence Secretary gave a radio interview from Japan in which he claimed that a campaign had been whipped up against him. He told the *Today* programme on BBC Radio 4: "That's one of the things you have to live with in politics." Asked if he thought he was a special target, Mr Portillo replied: "Well, so it seems, but I make no complaint about that."

The assertion swiftly sparked new complaints against him that he had ignored the Prime Minister's call for a truce. Last week he irritated some ministers and MPs by attacking Emma Nicholson over her defection from the Tories. Yesterday he provoked further criticism by saying that there was no room in the Conservative Party for MPs demanding a federal Europe.

Supporters of Mr Portillo suggested last night that the repeated sniping was part of a concerted, long-term strategy by leftwingers to discredit him and end his chances of becoming a future Tory party leader. "They have already conceded defeat and their aim is to stop Michael ever becoming leader after the election," one right-wing MP said.

Peter Temple-Morris, a leading Tory leftwinger, said Mr Portillo's claims about a campaign against him were "simplistic and only serve to reopen the argument".

Mr Portillo showed no sign of backing away from his hardline stance over Europe. Asked whether there was room in the Tory party for MPs demanding economic and monetary union, he said: "Not if they believe, of course, in a United States of Europe. That is something the Conservative Party is against."

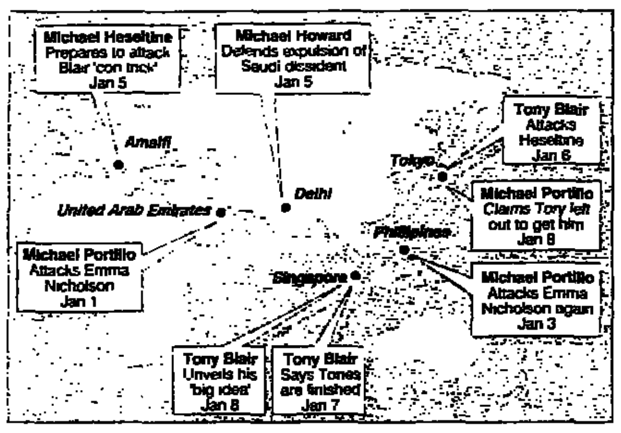
Mr Portillo also hardened his criticism of Miss Nicholson, who defected to the Liberal Democrats. In contrast to the Prime Minister's conciliatory references to Miss Nicholson on Sunday, Mr Portillo said: "The fact of the matter is that Emma Nicholson did show disloyalty to two prime ministers in a row and I said that fairly and squarely and I don't think there can be any denying that."

Meanwhile, the internal Tory struggle for supremacy over Europe continued with pro-Europeans opening up a campaign to put the case for a single currency and calling on Euro-sceptics to stop confusing voters with "Euro-pessimism and myths".

The European Movement, backed by several Tory MPs, pointed to poll evidence suggesting that more than half those questioned wanted closer co-operation between EU countries with Britain playing a leading role.

☐ Speaking in Tokyo yesterday, Mr Portillo provoked condemnation from veterans of Japanese PoW camps when he underlined the Government's support for Japan to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council and gave his personal backing for closer co-operation between the British and Japanese military.

Bill Holtham, chairman of the Japanese Labour Camps Survivors Association, said the Japanese should not be considered as a permanent member of the Security Council "until they have wiped the slate clean of the terrible cruelties they inflicted on our people".


Michael Heseltine Prepares to attack Blair 'con trick' Jan 5
Michael Howard Defends expulsion of Saudi dissident Jan 5
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Delhi
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United Arab Emirates
Philippines
Michael Portillo Attacks Emma Nicholson Jan 1
Singapore
Michael Portillo Attacks Emma Nicholson again Jan 3
Tony Blair Unveils his 'big idea' Jan 8
Tony Blair Says Tories are finished Jan 7

Political abuse tops export drive

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FROM the Middle East to Japan, bemused foreigners will be breathing a sigh of relief that Parliament reassembles today. Although you could be forgiven for not noticing, the Commons has been in recess.

That has not stopped our most senior politicians from carrying on the war by other means. Tory splits, which normally reverberate no further than our own shores, have turned up as far afield as the Philippines. Tony Blair's "big idea" has been launched in Singapore. And British arms sales to Saudi Arabia have been robustly defended in Delhi.

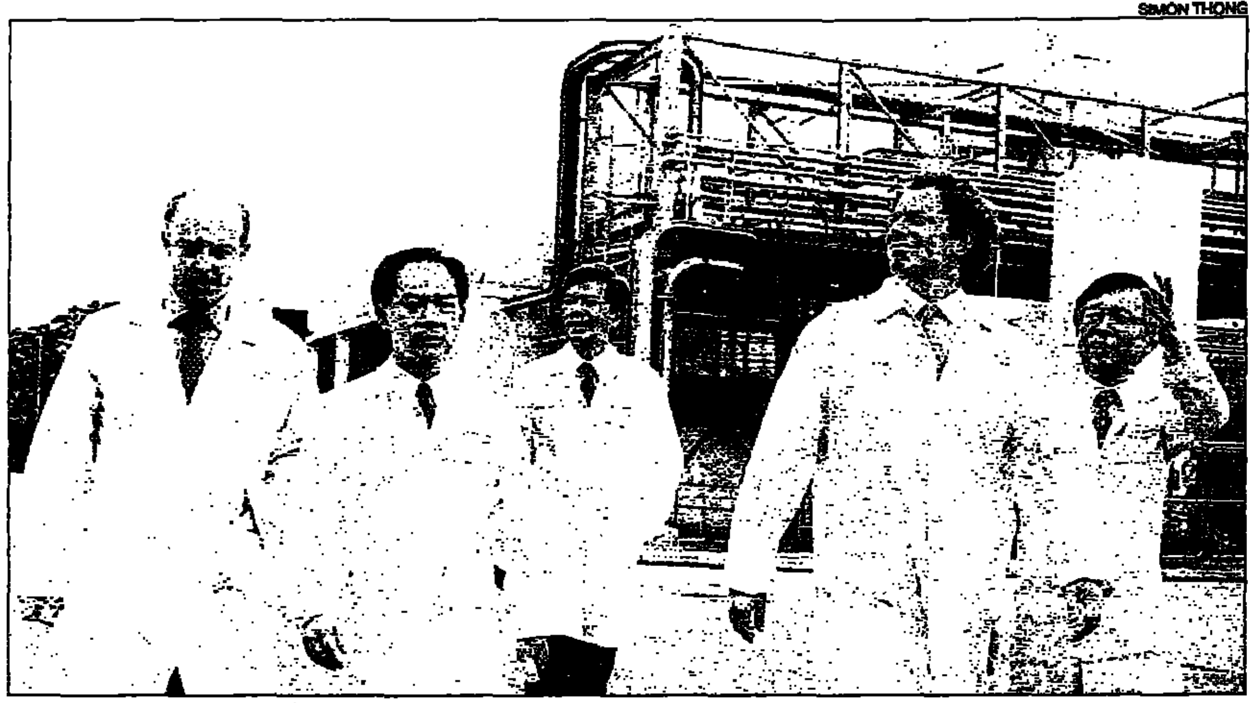
For the Tories, most of their political rivals are inside their own party, which helps to explain Michael Portillo's turbulent Pacific odyssey. Before he left Britain, Emma Nicholson was scarcely a household name in her own household. Now she has been savaged from the United Arab Emirates to Japan.

The saga began on New Year's Day in the Emirates, when Mr Portillo, promoting defence sales, used a BBC interview to wade into Miss Nicholson over her defection to the Liberal Democrats. He hinted that other Tory MPs sharing her federalist views would be better off following her example.

Howls of outrage from the Tory Left failed to deter him. Two days later in the Philippines, Mr Portillo returned to the attack. Yesterday, despite a plaintive appeal from John Major, Mr Portillo was still stoking the flames in Tokyo.

Mr Blair has joined in the fun. His first speech in Tokyo on January 5, telling Japanese businessmen they had nothing to fear from a Labour government, made a modest impact — until Michael Heseltine, returning from the Italian resort of Amalfi, accused the Labour leader of playing a "confidence trick".

After Mr Major's interview with Sir David Frost, in which he admitted his party would lose the election unless it stopped squabbling, Mr Blair intervened from Singapore to say that the Conservatives were finished. It was then a small step to unveil Labour's "big idea" — the stakeholder society — some 6,000 miles from home.



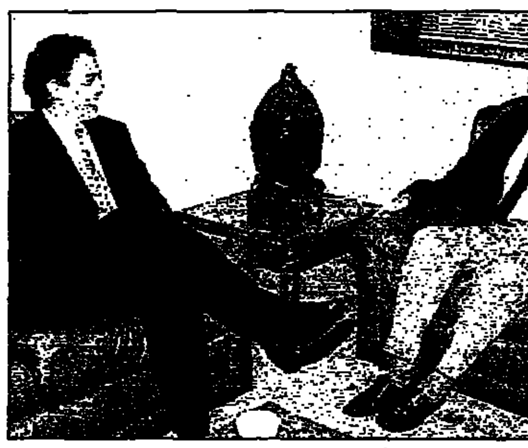
Glaxo-Wellcome's plant in Singapore which yesterday played host to the Labour leader on his private visit

Blair promises united Britain

By Philip Webster
POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR yesterday promised that a Labour government would unite the country by trying to give every citizen a sense of belonging.

Setting out his vision of a "stakeholder economy", one of the so-called big ideas which he claims will transform Britain's fortunes, Mr Blair went close to rejecting his party's traditional belief in redistributing wealth through the tax and benefits system. He also underlined that reform of the welfare system was an integral part of his plans.



With Lee Kuan Yew, who said he was impressed

But the Labour leader came under immediate attack from the Tories and Liberal Democrats. Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, said in a BBC interview: "It was an idea that we had in 1979, when we enabled people to buy shares in the privatised utilities and industries of Britain. We were opposed tooth and nail by Tony Blair at the time, so if it is his big idea, he's just 16 years out of date." Alan Beith, deputy leader of the Liberal Democrats, said: "Tony Blair is simply borrowing a concept advocated by Liberal Democrats for years — without taking on board commitments to make it a reality."

The Labour leader was using a speech in Singapore on the final day of his Far East tour to begin fleshing out Labour's ideas for a "one nation" society. "It is a stakeholder economy in which opportunity is available to all, advancement is through merit and from which no group or class is set apart or excluded."

He said that the old means on the Left of achieving those aims was through redistribution in the tax and benefit regime. "But in the global economy, the old ways won't do. A life on benefit, dependent on the state, is not what most people want. They want independence, dignity, a chance to earn and get on."

Mr Blair said the stakeholding principle should also apply within firms. He said it was time to shift the emphasis away from companies being a mere vehicle for the capital market to being a community or partnership in which each employee had a stake.

He placed long-term unemployment at the top of the agenda with a pledge to bring back into mainstream society people who felt alienated. "If we fail in that, we waste talent, squander potential wealth-creating ability and deny the basis of trust upon which a cohesive society, one nation, is built," he said.

Mr Blair said that reform of the welfare system would be one of the main objectives of an incoming Labour government: it did not alleviate poverty effectively, and it did not properly assist the growth of independence, the move from benefit to work.

Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's senior minister, said he had been impressed by Mr Blair, whom he said could turn out to be a worthy successor to Baroness Thatcher, whom Mr Lee has praised for attempting to transform the British economy.

Letters, page 17

Labour's 'women only' rule illegal

Continued from page 1

acceptance of the ruling. The nine constituencies that were close to choosing women candidates were Gravesham, Great Yarmouth, Warrington South, Salford, Bolton West, Blackpool North, Stretford, Rochdale and Bethnal Green. Five others in the North, South Wales and Leicester were to start selection soon.

Leading lawyers have been at odds about the legality of the all-women lists. The Equal Opportunities Commission obtained an opinion last year from Michael Beloff, QC, who thought it was lawful. But Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC, another expert in the field, said it was not.

The argument hinged on whether Labour fell within the exceptions provided under the Sex Discrimination Act. These include the internal activities of political parties unless — as the European Court of Justice recently held — the selection of candidates for a shortlist is considered to be engagement in a profession or trade.

James Goudie QC, who represented Labour at last month's hearing, had argued that MPs were neither employees, nor did they work in a profession.

Opera House staff threaten one-day strikes

By Dalya Alberge
and Alasdair Steven

STAFF at the Royal Opera House voiced a chorus of disapproval yesterday, declaring a lack of confidence in the management. Fearing up to 200 redundancies and demoralised by a pay freeze dating back to 1992, they threatened to stage a series of one-day strikes.

At a meeting attended by about 200 members, staff called for Jeremy Isaacs, the general director, to "be prepared to answer questions". Keith Cooper, director of corporate affairs, was unable to specify the exact number of redundancies yesterday but did not dismiss the 200 figure as too high. He blamed the decline in private funding and said: "It's very sad that we have not been able to convince a section of our staff of the enormity of the financial problems facing the house. Redundancies are always a last resort and we will work hard to demonstrate why this regrettable step is necessary to balance the books."

The Royal Opera House was recently awarded £55 million from the National Lottery towards its £200 million redevelopment. It is cutting the number of new productions for the new season from seven to two.

Libby Purves, page 16

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dorrell demands fairer NHS care

Unacceptable variations in the quality of health care in different parts of the country must be dealt with, Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, said last night. Denying recent warnings that the NHS would be unable to provide universal free care, Mr Dorrell said equity was a key principle.

Highlighting variations in Caesarean rates, coronary bypass rates and grommet operations for "glue ear", he said that responsibility for challenging such variations rested firmly with health authorities and GPs.

Lottery bribe row

Richard Branson told Peter Davis, the lottery regulator, yesterday that he would not give evidence to an independent inquiry into claims he was offered a bribe to withdraw from the contest to run the National Lottery. He said the inquiry would not "command public confidence".

Balloon race, page 9

Police cash plea

The Chief Constable of Warwickshire, Peter Joslin, is to plead with the Home Office today for extra money to avoid further cuts in resources. Yesterday he said a £6 million pound shortfall this year had meant station closures and a recruitment freeze, adding: "We are managing on a shoestring."

Meningitis birth

Stacey Cunniff, aged 17, a meningitis victim was "improving" last night after undergoing a Caesarean operation to save her unborn son. Callum was delivered seven weeks prematurely and has shown no signs of the infection, said a spokeswoman at *South Cleveland Hospital*, Middlesbrough.

Parrot man jailed

Alan Griffiths, a retired vet who smuggled the eggs of rare parrots into Britain from Australia, was jailed for eight months yesterday at Swansea Crown Court. Griffiths, 68, of Llanbethery, South Glamorgan, admitted conspiracy to import endangered species and was ordered to forfeit £29,000.

Planning bonus

Oxford City Council will gain at least £2 million if it grants planning permission later this month for a £17 million leisure development near the city's railway station. The 6½-acre Oxpens development site is owned jointly by the Labour-controlled council and Railtrack.

Salut! to genes

The protective effect of alcohol against heart disease depends on the genes of the drinker, French scientists have discovered. Those with the "right" genes who drank at least 50 grams of alcohol a day, equivalent to six glasses of wine, halved their risk of a heart attack.

School bus death

A 14-year-old boy was dragged to his death under the wheels of a school bus yesterday when his bag apparently caught in the folding doors after he alighted. The accident was witnessed by the boy's mother, who was travelling behind the bus on her way to collect him.

"I watched as the bomb flipped the lorry over like a beer mat and wreckage poured over our jeep. We didn't drive off in case we ran over a landmine..."

THE HIT
THAT STILL HAUNTS
ANDY KERSHAW.

Andy Kershaw, taking time off from Radio 1 to report from Rwanda. Our journalists and commentators scour the world for momentous, interesting and off-beat stories. 'From Our Own Correspondent', 11.30 Saturday and Thursday mornings.

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Rescuers order stranded sailors to jump ship

By Peter Foster and Veema Shah

A ROYAL NAVY helicopter crew rescued five sailors from the Atlantic yesterday after ordering them to jump into the 30ft waves from the deck of their stricken ship.

The men were on the 4,000-tonne Romanian cargo vessel *Covasna*, which was adrift in force 9 gales 300 miles south-west of Cape Finisterre on the Spanish coast. They had remained on board after the captain ordered 17 other crewmen to abandon ship in two lifeboats.

A Lynx helicopter from *HMS Northumberland* found the ship pitching too violently to risk trying to winch the men from the deck in lashing rain and winds of almost 40 knots. Instead the Navy crew dropped survival suits and lifejackets on to the quarterdeck. The five were winched from the sea after donning the suits and jumping overboard.

Commander Steve Bramley, captain of *Northumberland*, which was on her way to the South Atlantic, said the five men were cold and tired but uninjured. A Russian tanker picked up the other 17 crew. Last night a Spanish tug was expected to take the *Covasna* in tow.

In Scotland a passenger ferry bound for Aberdeen from the Faroe islands steamed into Invergordon harbour on the Cromarty Firth a day and a half late after being delayed by storms and turned away by harbour masters at Aberdeen. The 4,269-tonne *Smyril* normally makes the 400-mile trip in 22 hours but when she docked at 9.30pm on Sunday she had been at sea for more than two and a half days.

Most of the 52 people on board were students returning to resume their studies in Scotland. Rigin Hammer, 22, of Robert Gordon's University in Aberdeen, said: "Our troubles started as we left the islands. We were sailing into the teeth of a force 9 gale the whole way. The crew had to lash the chairs together to stop them being thrown round the saloon."

Sofus Poulson, the Faroe Islands Commercial Attaché in Scotland, said: "It was an experience for the passengers, but the ship performed very well in atrocious conditions."

In Cornwall a chain ferry that carries cars and pedestrians across the River Fal to the Roseland peninsula broke down in mid-stream after high winds caused the chain to jam. Engineers worked for two hours to free the ferry, which was carrying eight cars, the pilot and the ticket collector.

Manageress fights for job after violence at club's prizegiving

Champion woman golfer punched man off bar stool

By Andrew Pierce

A CHAMPION woman golfer punched a six-foot businessman from his bar stool at the club where she worked after claiming that he had stroked her thigh, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Philomena Vaughan, 42, a Welsh champion, was at a prizegiving ceremony at the course where she was shop manageress when she suddenly shouted: "Don't touch me," and delivered two right hooks, knocking John Price to the floor in the crowded bar of the £450-a-year Dewstow Golf Club at Caerwent, Gwent.

Mrs Vaughan, 42, who was a Welsh gold medal winner and a county player, had been three-times club champion and had a handicap of 14. She was stripped of her titles after an internal inquiry and sacked from her salaried post two months later. The 5ft 6in mother of four claimed that Mr Price slid his hand beneath her long waistcoat and caressed her thigh as she walked past him after receiving her awards.

A club inquiry rejected her claim of sexual harassment and concluded that the county golfer, who had collected several trophies at the ceremony, was "the worse for wear" and had misinterpreted the incident. Mrs Vaughan, but not Mr Price, was suspended. Mrs Vaughan, who is being backed by the Equal Opportunities Commission, is claiming unfair dismissal and sexual discrimination. Mr Price, who was accompanied to the prizegiving by his wife, denied indecently assaulting Mrs Vaughan, whose husband Peter was also present. He said that he had tried to remove a cigarette which was attached to the bottom of her cardigan.

Details of the flare-up spread like wildfire around the club. Mr Price, aghast at the rumours, demanded an internal investigation to try to clear his name. Mr Price's wife Pamela, another club member, told the hearing: "Mrs Vaughan had won quite a few trophies. I asked her if she was sober and she replied, 'No — I'm celebrating'. She walked to the bar and I saw my husband just before he hit the floor. He was very shaken. It's not the sort of thing you expect at our golf club."

After the club investigation Mrs Vaughan of Rogiet, near Newport, was asked to resign as ladies' secretary, social treasurer and county delegate. She stayed on as full-time manageress at the club shop but was sacked two months later. The tribunal heard that she called the ladies' captain an "old bitch" and officials "old sods".

Philip Marshall, counsel for the club, said: "She claims Mr Price slid his hand underneath her waistcoat. Words were exchanged and he put his hand towards her. She struck him on the chin. He says he was brushing a cigarette end off her cardigan and she misinterpreted his action, striking him twice. He ended up on the floor. Within 24 hours reports of the incident were circulating around the golf club. Mr Price became very concerned at the slanderous reports and complained to officials."

Mr Marshall said she launched a "tirade of abuse" against Elwyn Harris, the club committee chairman. "She made insolent, derogatory and taunting remarks. She said the ladies captain was an old bitch. She called them old sods and said she would fight them all the way. Then she invited them to sack her," he said.

Mr Price said: "I was only trying to help her. She hit me on the arm and then in the throat. It was all over in a millisecond and I ended up on the floor. I complained after receiving reports of various accusations against me including one from a customer who had heard I had been touching someone up."

Clive Lewis, representing Mrs Vaughan, said the club had discriminated by handling the two complaints in different ways. The club denies unfair dismissal and sex discrimination. The hearing, which is expected to last for three days, continues.

CHRIS ISON

Philomena Vaughan: stripped of her titles after being "the worse for wear"

Thompson describes years of marriage break-up

Branagh and Thompson sharing success in 1993, when their marriage had already begun to founder

By Andrew Pierce

EMMA THOMPSON, speaking for the first time about her separation from Kenneth Branagh, has disclosed that their marriage began to founder more than three years before the break-up was announced in October.

Problems arose before rumours began about Mr Branagh's friendship with Helena Bonham Carter, whom he met in 1993 on the set of *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*. "Our separation had nothing to do with anyone else," Miss Thompson, 36, said in an interview in *Vanity Fair*.

The difficulties began about the time that Miss Thompson won an Oscar for her role in *Howards End*, effectively eclipsing Mr Branagh's assault on Hollywood. He had been regarded as the brighter prospect of the two and wrote his autobiography when he was 28.

"I committed every molecule to my marriage, so relinquishing it has been very hard. It's been like breaking your fingers as you let go," she said. Despite the sorrow they remained close friends: "Ken will always be family. That is a given."

She said: "Certainly it was like sitting on a time bomb ... if you like, the pain sort of started such a long time ago. Three years. I know I am steering into a calmer place. Despite the pain, one comes through it. Marriages stop. Marriages change. People are always saying a marriage 'failed'. It's such a negative way of putting it."

The actress insisted she felt no sense of failure. Her estranged husband agreed. He told the magazine: "Not even a grain of failure in any sense could be attributed to Emma in any of this. She has been absolutely magnificent throughout."

The couple, who married in 1989, enjoyed critical acclaim for *Much Ado About Nothing* in 1993. Miss Thompson was nominated for another academy award for *The Remains of the Day* in 1993 and shortlisted the following year for *In the Name of the Father*.

She expressed no regrets at the fact the couple have no children. "I have no feelings of that sort. I would have thought one is more likely to maintain a decent relationship if one does not have something that forces you into it."

The actress declined to discuss Mr Branagh's friendship with Miss Bonham Carter or her own reported liaison with Greg Wise, who stars with her in *Sense and Sensibility*, her adaption of Jane Austen's novel that has won two awards and five Golden Globe nominations. Asked if she had an affair with Mr Wise, she replied: "That's a separate issue. It involves a third party who is not here and cannot speak for himself."

Miss Thompson appears on the magazine cover dressed as Henry V, a role her husband played in 1989. Other photographs show her semi-naked. Asked if she thought she was sexy, she said: "In private, yes. I think of myself as sexual in a human way, but not as a kind of a bombshell. I tend to represent ordinary women."

Miss Thompson, who has a home in Hampstead, north London, has no plans to leave Britain for the United States. "I am sure I could. But I do love England. I love the people. Even if they are not friendly, at least they are funny."

Lottery cash for charity with link to riots

By Richard Ford
Home Correspondent

ONE of the organisers of the protest that degenerated into the Brixton riot last month has been employed by a charity that was awarded more than £200,000 of National Lottery money. Lee Jasper started work yesterday as temporary co-ordinator of the 1990 Trust, which has been given the cash to set up a "black information link".

The initiative is for an online database at community centres across the country to provide information to the black and Asian communities on race, housing, employment, local authorities and Westminster. The National Lottery Board said the 1990 Trust met the criteria for being awarded cash to relieve poverty.

Mr Jasper, until recently a trustee of the charity, is a key figure in the National Black Caucus, which organised the protest in Brixton over the death in police custody of Wayne Douglas.

Mr Jasper, 37, a father of five, was one of several people who spoke at the protest before rioting broke out on the streets, causing £1 million of damage to commercial premises. He said that the 1990 Trust provided material, including research documents, to support the National Black Caucus.

"The trust has a credible record in the field of the voluntary sector," he said. "It has proved itself and it is well-respected by funders and has received grants from many funders.

"The organisation has met the Home Secretary, government departments and the Association of Chief Police Officers. In fact the trust is meeting Sir Paul Condon on Thursday to discuss policing in London."

He denied having incited the riots with his speech. "I said that as an organiser of the caucus I was exhausted with looking into the eyes of grieving mothers whose children have died and I urged people to get involved and join organisations to ensure that these things don't happen again.

"Although people would like to portray the organisation as having instigated disturbances, our track record stands scrutiny with the best."

The National Lottery Board said the trust had provided paperwork supporting its application which made clear its links with the National Black Caucus.

The 1990 Trust has received backing from charities including £104,000 from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.

Monk denies sex assault on boys

By Adrian Lee

A MONK sexually abused six boys while he was a headmaster, a court was told yesterday. John Dyer, 55, known as Brother Cyril, was head of St John's College, in Southsea, Hampshire, for ten years.

At Winchester Crown Court, Mr Dyer, of the Roman Catholic order of De La Salle, denied eight charges of indecently assaulting the six pupils between 1985 and 1994.

Tim Compton, for the prosecution, alleged most of the assaults by Dyer took place in dormitories. Some of the boys, all aged under 16 when the alleged attacks took place, will give evidence by television link.

Mr Compton said that during one assault Dyer called himself "the lesser spotted phantom bottom biter". One schoolboy was assaulted after a cricket match, it was alleged.

Mr Compton said: "The defendant assaulted and touched these boys quite deliberately in circumstances which were inherently indecent."

Dyer, now of Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire, joined St John's College in 1975, becoming head nine years later. He was arrested in September 1994.

The jury was told that one schoolboy, who claimed he was assaulted several times, tried to telephone the charity ChildLine ten times but was greeted each time by a recorded message saying all lines were busy. In a video-recorded interview the same boy said Mr Dyer would come to his room after lights out, kneel by his bed and sexually assault him. Afterwards Mr Dyer would allegedly say "God bless you" before leaving the room.

The school has 700 day pupils and 114 boarders. Fees are £2,180 a term for boarders.

Mr Dyer also denies an alternative charge of indecency with a child. The trial continues.

Hi-tech fraudster bribed bank staff

By Tim Jones

A FORMER businessman who lived like a millionaire after bribing young bank employees to reveal customers' details was yesterday jailed for five years.

Michael Boparan chose teenagers who worked at National Westminster Bank's card transaction headquarters for his £1.3 million fraud, Southwark Crown Court was told, offering £100 a time for computer print-outs.

Working with Russell Jones, 27, who had a reputation for violence, he obtained details of gold and platinum card holders which were then encoded on to forged bank cards.

Police solved the case after a beat constable noticed that a car parked outside Boparan's home had an out-of-date tax disc. Inside, officers discovered dozens of fake credit cards and a laptop computer bearing Boporan's fingerprints.

But while Boparan, 30, lived in style at his home in St John's Wood, north London, the young bank staff he and others recruited scarcely benefited. Although the operation would not have been possible without them, the court was told that three former employees, Karen Baigent, 21, and Deborah Hill, 19, both of Southend, and Paul Deacon, 20, of Canvey Island, between them netted about £3,000.

The two women were ordered to perform 240 hours' community service and Deacon was sentenced to three months' youth detention. Karine Evans, 22, of Southend, who, with the other three, pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy, will be dealt with later.

Jones, of Southend, was found guilty of conspiracy to defraud banks and will be sentenced later before being tried on other serious charges. Bulent Osman, 30, of Keston, southeast London, was acquitted of one charge of conspiracy to defraud.

Turkish protesters hold three hostage

By Richard Duce

AN INSURANCE man was being held hostage in north London last night after becoming swept up in a protest over alleged civil rights abuses in Turkey.

Joe Postlethwaite was making routine calls when he stopped at the Turkish and English Chamber of Commerce in Islington. Minutes later the building was stormed by up to 50 protesters who barricaded themselves into two rooms. Mr Postlethwaite, who works for Norwich Union, was held hostage from 11.30am with two female members of staff, Salmaz Atan, the administrator, and Leah Barber, 20, a secretary. Police cordoned off the street as negotiators tried to end the siege. The stand-off continued last night but none of the protesters was thought to be armed.

The demonstrators, calling themselves the Solidarity Committee for Political Prisoners in Turkey, were holed up inside the building, close to the Barbican Centre, while a smaller group of about 20 people held a demonstration outside.

In a telephone interview from inside the building a spokesman for the group said it was a peaceful protest and there was no intention of harming the three people held inside. He said the protest was about the death of political prisoners in an Istanbul jail last weekend.

The protesters demanded media publicity about their demonstration and that Amnesty International should investigate the prison deaths. Mrs Atan, who was allowed to speak on the telephone, said: "I am at a loss to understand what they hope to achieve. We are not a Turkish government-sponsored organisation. We promote trade between Turkey and England."

Mr Postlethwaite was allowed to telephone his company to say he was "unavoidably detained" and to reassure his family.

Lloyds Bank Interest Rates for Personal Customers

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Investment Account	Annual Option		Monthly Option	
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %
£100,000+	5.65	4.24	5.51	4.13
£ 50,000+	5.45	4.09	5.32	3.99
£ 25,000+	5.25	3.94	5.13	3.85
£ 10,000+	5.00	3.75	4.89	3.67
Below £10,000	*0.50*	*0.38*	*0.50*	0.38

30 Day Savings	Annual Option		Monthly Option	
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %
£25,000+	4.10	3.08	4.02	3.02
£10,000+	3.90	2.93	3.83	2.87
£ 5,000+	3.70	2.78	3.64	2.73
Below £5,000	0.50	0.38	0.50	0.38

Instant Savings Account	Annual Option		Monthly Option	
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %
£25,000+	*4.00*	*3.00*	3.93	2.95
£10,000+	3.75	2.81	3.69	2.77
£ 5,000+	3.25	2.44	3.20	2.40
£ 500+	2.90	2.18	2.86	2.15
Below £500	1.00	0.75	1.00	0.75

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Deposit Account	Half-yearly Option		Monthly Option	
	Gross %	*Net %*	*Gross %*	*Net %*
£1+	0.25	0.19	0.25	0.19

High Interest Cheque Account	Gross %	Net %
£50,000+	3.00	2.25
£25,000+	2.85	2.14
£10,000+	2.75	2.06
£ 5,000+	1.75	1.31
Below £5,000	1.00	0.75

Treasurers Account	Gross %	Net %
£25,000+	3.75	2.81
£10,000+	3.55	2.66
£ 5,000+	3.10	2.33
£ 500+	2.90	2.18
Below £500	1.00	0.75

Headway and Young Savers	Gross %	Net %
£500+	2.90	2.18
£250+	2.75	2.06
£100+	2.50	*1.88*
£ 50+	2.00	1.50
Below £50	1.00	0.75

Asset Management Service Investment Account	Gross %	Net %
£100,000+	5.51	4.13
£ 50,000+	5.32	3.99
£ 25,000+	5.13	3.85
£ 10,000+	*4.89*	*3.67*
Below £10,000	2.86	2.15

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GROSS – The annual interest rate before deduction of basic rate income tax (where applicable).
NET – The annual interest rate after deduction of basic rate income tax; certain customers may be able to reclaim the tax from the Inland Revenue.
TAX-FREE – The annual interest rate when interest is exempt from income tax.
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Lighthouse keeper tells inquiry he knew aircraft was heading for disaster

Silence fell after RAF helicopter hit foggy hillside 'with a dull thud'

By Gillian Bowditch
Scotland Correspondent

A LIGHTHOUSE keeper described yesterday listening helplessly as an RAF Chinook helicopter carrying 25 of Ulster's most senior anti-terrorist experts and four crew members crashed into a Scottish hillside in dense fog, killing all on board instantly.

David Murchie, 56, who mans the lighthouse near Southend on the Mull of Kintyre and is a helicopter enthusiast, knew the aircraft was going to crash before it hit the hill. The former policeman told a Fatal Accident Inquiry at Paisley that he became "very concerned" that the helicopter would not clear the high ground behind the lighthouse.

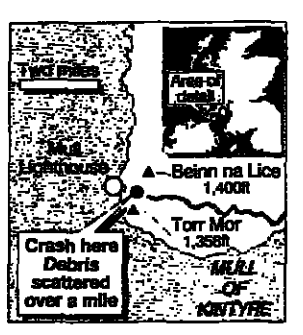
Mr Murchie, who has taken flying lessons and helped to build a helicopter, told the inquiry he was on duty in the lighthouse at 5.55pm on June 2, 1994, when he heard a Chinook approaching. He identified the helicopter by the sound of its twin rotor blades and assumed it was heading for the helipad beside the lighthouse.

Mr Murchie said the area was covered by dense fog and the lighthouse fog alarm was sounding. Visibility was about 20 metres and at no time did he see the helicopter. Initially, Mr Murchie was concerned that the aircraft might not see two pylons close to the landing pad and he ran outside.

He soon realised from the sound of the helicopter that it was not slowing down to land but was carrying on "at cruising speed". He added: "I formed the opinion that he wasn't flying at very high altitude. I became very concerned at this time."

Within seconds, Mr Murchie heard a "dull thud, followed by a whooshing sound and then total silence". He said he knew immediately that the aircraft had crashed. He told his wife to ring the emergency services and headed for the hillside, which was shrouded in fog.

Murchie: he heard no change in engine note



The disaster was the worst suffered by the RAF in 20 years. The helicopter was on its way from Ulster to Fort George, near Inverness, for a security conference. On board were ten members of the RUC Special Branch, nine Army intelligence officers, six MI5 officers and four RAF crew.

The inquiry before Sheriff Sir Stephen Young, which is expected to last a month, has been welcomed by the relatives of the two pilots who were in charge of the aircraft when it crashed.

Flight-Lieutenant Jonathan Tapper, 28, and his co-pilot Flight-Lieutenant Richard Cook, 30, have already been found guilty of gross negligence by the RAF after a board of inquiry. The families of the two men are optimistic that the Paisley inquiry will clear their names.

Mr Murchie told the inquiry that on his way to the crash site he met the assistant lighthouse keeper, Hector Lamont, returning from a shopping trip in the lighthouse Land Rover.

Mr Lamont said that as they were driving back to the lighthouse and heard the helicopter, his wife said she was concerned it might crash. He had told her it would be flying above the fog. As they arrived at the lighthouse Mr Murchie told them the aircraft had crashed.

The two men drove to the scene and discovered wreckage blocking the road and the hillside on fire. Dense smoke coupled with fog made visibility very poor but Mr Murchie found a number of bodies and checked for signs of life. All were dead.

Mr Murchie told the inquiry that at no time as he listened to the helicopter approach was there a change in the engine sound. Questioned by John Mitchell, for the Crown, he said he did not believe it had slowed down or accelerated. The noise of the helicopter disappeared temporarily as the aircraft went behind the lighthouse engine room, but it re-emerged at the same speed. "There was nothing abnormal about the engine noise that I could detect," Mr Murchie told the inquiry.

CHRIS BACON

Wreckage of the RAF Chinook lies in the foreground after crashing into high ground behind the lighthouse

He agreed with Aidan O'Neill, QC, counsel for Flight Lieutenant Tapper's family, that the fog could have muffled the engine noise and admitted that the noise of the helicopter blades was louder than the noise of the engine.

Dr Mhairi Cassidy, a consultant pathologist at Glasgow University, told the hearing that her post-mortem report on Flight Lieutenant Tapper showed no signs of heart attack or any other natural disease that could have caused him to lose control of the aircraft, nor was he under the influence of drink or drugs. A toxicology report on his body was negative. He had died from massive head injuries due to an aircraft accident.

Post-mortem evidence on all the dead had shown that they died instantly of multiple injuries consistent with a crash.

The inquiry also heard from Sinead Swift, 27, an air traffic controller working in Belfast. She confirmed that the helicopter had taken off normally on the day it crashed and was flying on "visual flight rules" rather than "instrument flight rules".

This means that once the helicopter had moved out of controlled air space it had no obligation to stay in touch with air traffic control. It made its last routine contact with Mrs Swift at 17.47, less than 15 minutes before it crashed.

The Chinook did not carry a black box flight recorder. Lawyers for the pilot's families told a preliminary hearing in Paisley last month that they would present evidence which showed that another RAF Chinook had developed engine and computer problems while being tested.

The inquiry continues.

Drought move 'is threat to wetlands wildlife'

By Michael Hornsby
Countryside Correspondent

WILDLIFE on one of Europe's most important wetlands is threatened by plans to top up depleted reservoirs in Yorkshire by drawing more water from the River Derwent, conservationists say.

Yorkshire Water has applied to the Department of the Environment for permission to take up to 360,000 cubic metres a day from two pumping stations on the lower Derwent, 55,000 more than the maximum allowed now.

Blaming the summer drought and poor rainfall this winter, Yorkshire Water says its reservoirs are only 24 per cent full at a time when they should be above 90 per cent.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said yesterday that taking more water would have a devastating impact on 2,000 acres of flood meadows in the lower Derwent valley which provide a winter home for thousands of waterfowl and a breeding ground for many other birds.

Barbara Young, the RSPB's chief executive, said: "It is extraordinary that Yorkshire Water should apply for this drought order knowing the importance of the site. The lower Derwent valley must not be sacrificed for a quick-fix solution."

A Yorkshire Water spokesman said: "We have taken our own environmental advice and been assured that our plans would have a minimal effect on flood levels."

☐ The tourist's first view of Snowdon could soon be obstructed by windmills, protesters claim. Plans to put up 87 windmill turbines on the Denbigh Moors, a popular route to Snowdonia, are to be submitted to Colwyn Bay Borough Council by Manweb Generation Holdings.

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Wartime weapons were dumped short of deep undersea trench

By Nick Nuttall
Environment Correspondent

HUNDREDS of thousands of tonnes of wartime munitions were dumped off Scotland short of a deep underwater trench, their intended disposal site, scientists said yesterday.

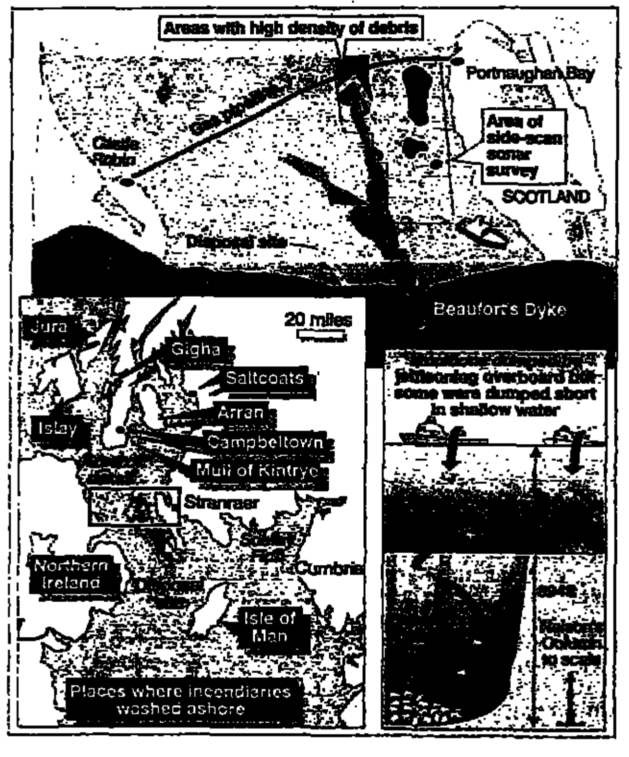
Surveys around Beaufort's Dyke, used as a military dump since at least 1945, confirm claims that huge quantities of weapons, including rockets containing poisonous gas and grenades, are littering the seabed off the west coast.

Derek Saward of the marine laboratory in Aberdeen, which carried out the survey, said yesterday: "We have found definite evidence of dumping outside Beaufort's Dyke." The trench is 800ft deep, 30 miles long and 3 miles wide.

The survey was ordered by the Scottish Office after about 4,000 phosphorus-based incendiary bombs were washed ashore last year along the west coast, including on Mull and Arran. Environmentalists and Labour MPs claimed the bombs were dislodged by British Gas engineers laying a pipeline between Northern Ireland and Scotland.

In September, a four-year-old boy from Campbeltown on Kintyre suffered burns to his hand and leg after a phosphorous bomb he picked up on the beach ignited. However, the 20-page report published yesterday concluded that there is no risk to the public or marine life.

The scientists said that concentrations of heavy metals linked with munitions, such as arsenic and cadmium, measured in fish from around the trench were no higher than those found in commercial catches across the North and Irish seas.



The Earl of Lindsay, a Scottish Office Minister, said yesterday that more research was needed to link the emergence of the incendiaries with the pipeline, which was routed just north of the dump site on government advice. However, he added: "We will have to await the results of the full study for conclusive evidence, but in all probability we acknowledge there could be a link between the two."

Dr Saward said there were also plans to lay an electricity cable between Scotland and Northern Ireland and interest in gas drilling in the area. There was also the risk of fishermen trawling up old weapons in their nets.

George Foulkes, the Labour MP for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon, who has highlighted concern about the dumping, called for far more extensive searches. There have been suggestions that short dumping took place in the Solway Firth as ships bringing the munitions came from both Stranraer and Cumbria.

Richard Dixon of Friends of the Earth Scotland said they were also far from satisfied that marine life was safe. He said there were fears that some of the munitions, which were dumped at the site until 1976, might have contained chemical and biological weapons such as sarin.

It is claimed that up to 2,517 tonnes of concrete owned by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority was also dumped at Beaufort's Dyke in 1981. Environmentalists fear it could be radioactive, although this is denied by the authority.

The laboratory's report says: "The side scan-sonar and underwater television surveys confirmed that medium to high densities of dumped materials were present on the seabed in areas to the north, northeast and east of the chartered explosives disposal site. These include areas immediately to the north and south of the undersea gas pipeline." Munitions were seen in boxes, in open crates, or lying loose on the seabed.

Dr Saward said the Ministry of Defence, which up to recently had maintained that all post Second World War munitions had been dumped within the site, were studying underwater television images taken during the survey.

It hoped to identify the exact type of munitions lying outside the 250-metre deep trench, allowing the marine laboratory scientists to assess the risk. The work might conclude that it was safer to leave the weapons where they were or that some of the devices found were too dangerous to leave on the seabed and might need to be removed.

The laboratory scientists also plan to carry out a further survey in April to see whether munitions were dumped closer to shore.

Crates and canisters held 1m tonnes

By Nick Nuttall

THE type and quantity of weapons strewn in and around Beaufort's Dyke is unknown but the haul is believed to include British, American and German Second World War munitions.

The Ministry of Defence claims the site, one of several underwater ones used by the military, could have been used in the 1920s but has no record of what was dumped. Officially the MoD claims that something over a million tonnes of Army and RAF munitions were jettisoned into Beaufort's Dyke off boats in crates and canisters. These include 14,600 tonnes of 5in rockets containing poisonous phosgene, fuses, grenades, artillery shells, mortar bombs, incendiaries and cluster bombs.

But critics claim there could also be chemical and biological weapons which might be released when metal canisters corrode. That claim has been strengthened by yesterday's report. The ministry had, until the surveys were carried out, insisted that all their records showed the munitions had been been jettisoned at the dyke. These claims have been shown to be untrue.

The last of the RAF wartime munitions were dumped in 1957 but the Army carried on dumping 3,000 tonnes a year. Britain signed international sea dumping conventions and the last emergency dump of small munitions was in 1976.

‘My wife sacrificed her life to save our boys — no mother could do more than that’

Woman killed as she pushes sons from path of car

By Paul Wilkinson

A YOUNG mother on a country walk with her family was killed as she pushed her two children from the path of a car that was spinning out of control.

As Karine Ratcliffe, 31, took the full impact of the crashing car, her sons Martin, 9, and John, 6, were flung into a hedge. They and their father, Ian, suffered only cuts and bruises.

Yesterday Mr Ratcliffe, 38, said: “My wife sacrificed her own life to save our boys. No mother could possibly do more than that — they owe their lives to her. It was typical of her to do something so selfless. She loved the boys more than anything.”

The couple's eldest child Alison, 14, had missed the family's regular Sunday walk to visit friends. Martin and John were told of their mother's death by a hospital counsellor. “It was a terrible moment,” Mr Ratcliffe said. “They were amazingly brave and very good. They were little soldiers.”

The accident happened on the winding B1325 at Earsdon, near the Ratcliffes' home at Holywell, North Tyneside. The car, a Ford Escort, was approaching the family from behind when it moved to avoid an oncoming van and apparently clipped the verge, causing the driver to lose control.

A spokesman for Northumbria Police said: “Mrs Ratcliffe took the force of the collision. It was a terrible tragedy and an awful thing for those two children to see.”

Mr Ratcliffe said: “We were walking in single file, facing oncoming traffic. I was at the front, the boys were in the middle and my wife at the back. We always did it that way.

“I saw a van coming towards us and could hear a car coming from behind. Just as the van passed there was a screech of brakes. I looked over my shoulder and saw the car spinning straight at us and Karine was pushing the two boys out of the way with both hands. The car hit her full on but only clipped the boys because she had managed to get them clear. We were all knocked over.

“When I got up I could see my wife was in a bad way. Both her legs were broken and the back wheel had her pinned against the hawthorn hedge and she clearly had crush and head injuries.”

Martin and John had been thrown into the hawthorns and Mr Ratcliffe had ended up beneath the car's exhaust pipe. Mrs Ratcliffe was pinned to the ground and drinkers from the nearby Beehive Inn used their bare hands to help to lift the car from her.

Elspeth McCall, the pub's assistant manager, said: “It was an awful scene and the poor lady looked to be in a very bad way. There were quite a few motorists who stopped to help and together they moved the car.

“The family were badly shocked. I took blankets for everyone and we all tried to offer what comfort we could to the children and father until the ambulances arrived.”

Mrs Ratcliffe was taken to North Tyneside General Hospital where she was certified dead.

The three children spent Sunday night with relatives. “I wanted to be on my own,” Mr Ratcliffe said. “I sat up all night in the dark just thinking about Karine and what she did. I have been struggling to get my thoughts together.

“Somehow I have to be strong for the children and try to fill the gap left by her, but I know that's impossible. She was a lovely jolly lass, in fact her maiden name was Jolly. Last week was wonderful. It was her birthday on January 2 and our tenth wedding anniversary the next day. Now everything is gone and life will not be the same again for any of us. I can't describe how much we will miss her. She was everything to me and the children.”

Mrs Ratcliffe helped out part-time at Seaton Delaval First School, where her sons were pupils. She had recently given up her job as a cook with the Territorial Army's medical unit at Fenham barracks in Newcastle upon Tyne to be with her family.

The Ford Escort driver, a 21-year-old man from Whitley Bay, has been interviewed by police. A decision on whether he should face charges will be taken later.

Ian Ratcliffe yesterday with his sons John, 6, and Martin, 9. All three were injured when a car hit and killed the boys' mother Karine

Victim in safety vest survives shooting

By A Staff Reporter

A MAN wearing a bulletproof vest survived a shooting in Moss Side, Manchester, yesterday. Darrell Laycock, 22, was shot in the head and body and his companion, Adele Abdela, 19, was wounded in the arm and hand.

The couple, who were hit by .22 bullets, were put under police armed guard in hospital. Police sources confirmed that Mr Laycock, whose condition was described as stable, had been questioned and released after the murder ten days ago of a suspected drug dealer, Raymond Pitt, 20. Another man was charged with the killing.

Detectives were investigating the possibility that yesterday's shooting, which happened at about 1am on Alexandra Park, an estate notorious for drug dealing, was a revenge attack for Mr Pitt's murder.

Superintendent Lillian King, Moss Side sub-divisional commander, said: “I can reassure the local community we are deploying all available resources. Our main concern is to protect law-abiding people, who form the vast majority of the community.”

☐ Twenty-two people were arrested in the Witton area of Birmingham after fighting between rival groups of Asians began on Sunday night and ended at 5am yesterday.

A taxi was petrol-bombed, a man was stabbed in the leg and police seized 20 weapons, including a machete and rice flails. Officers met community leaders to establish the cause and to try to avoid more violence.

Students ready to perform for Beatle

By Kate Alderson

PAUL McCARTNEY realised an ambition to turn his old school into an international performing arts academy yesterday when 200 hopefuls arrived in Liverpool for the opening day.

Students from as far afield as Japan, Norway and America began a three year-course for an honours degree at the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts.

More than £12 million has been spent on the refurbishment of the 19th-century Institute for Boys grammar school that the former Beatle hopes will become “the world's target for tomorrow's talent”.

Many students, disappointed when the school did not open on time in September because of building work, have travelled thousands of miles and beaten hundreds of other applicants to get there.

Takaya Tsukuda, 27, from Tokyo said he had joined to “make music for a new generation”. Juke James, an English soul singer in his twenties, said he hoped to form a new band at the institute. “I would never have considered a degree course if it wasn't for LIPA,” he said.

The institute will train 32 actors, 15 community artists, 19 dancers, 22 enterprise managers, 57 musicians, 14 performance designers and 30 sound technologists to develop and sustain a career in arts and entertainment.

McCartney hopes to teach occasionally and will attend the official launch at the end of the month.

Iron lady steels will of polar explorer

By A Staff Reporter

THE explorer David Hempleman-Adams, the first Briton to walk solo and unsupported to the South Pole, said yesterday he had been inspired by advice in Baroness Thatcher's autobiography when he was about to give up.

As he battled with an injured back through a blizzard dragging a 285lb sledge, he recalled reading how she had been told as a child that it was easy to be a starter, but was she a finisher?

“I'm no great fan of hers but I did remember reading this in *The Downing Street Years*,” said the 39-year-old father-of-three, speaking just hours after arriving in Chile from the two-month voyage to the Pole. “I also thought of my daughter Alicia at school plotting my progress and knew I couldn't give up.”

Mr Hempleman-Adams, from Swindon, Wiltshire, has not seen his wife and three daughters for three months. Speaking from his hotel in Punta Arenas, he said he had lost 32lb by the time he finished his 680-mile trek last Friday. He was flown out of the region in a Hercules after becoming stranded in snow when he reached the Pole. The explorer said that, as he neared his goal, he thought of how Captain Scott of the Antarctic must have felt in 1912 when he reached the same point only to find he had been beaten by Roald Amundsen by a month.

Mr Hempleman-Adams said: “It was strange because I could see the Pole with all the antennae from the US base from about 14 miles away because the air is so clear, but I never seemed to get any closer. I thought of Scott and imagined going all that way to get to this position then seeing a black tent, wondering if it was a rock, and then it dawning on him that he's been beaten. It must have wiped him out.”

He said the initial stages of the journey were among the worst. “The weather was absolutely horrible. I was dragging the sledge into the headwind, up 7ft snow mounds for miles on end and thought ‘This is ridiculous’. He pulled his back when he fell after his sledge became caught.

He said that when he reached the US base, where the temperature was -38C, no one was even out of bed but “it was just fantastic”.

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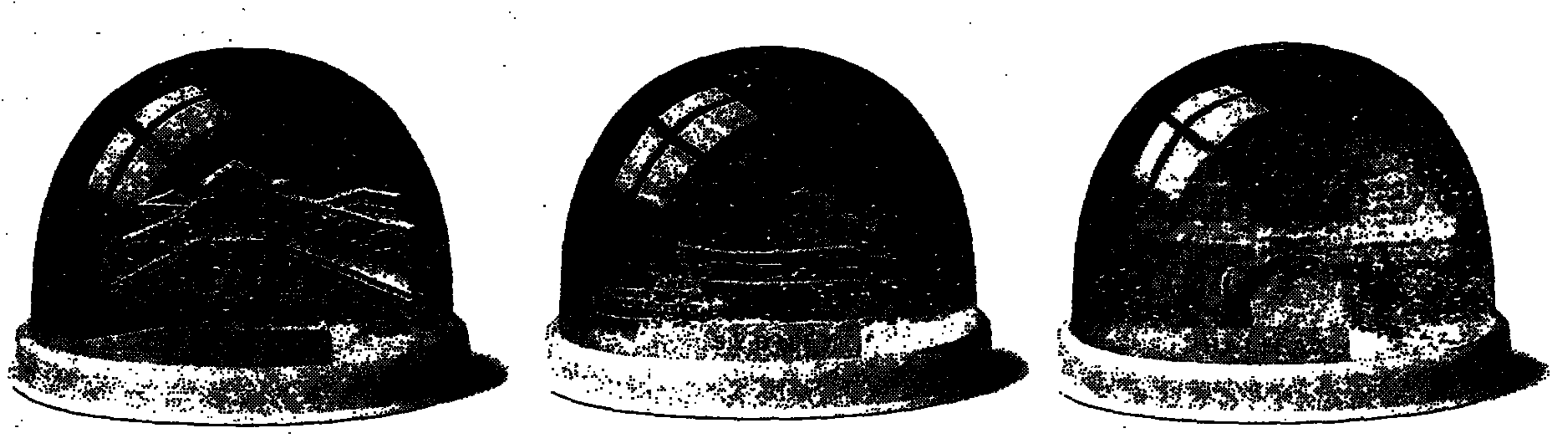

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هكذا من الأصل

مكتبات الأهل

Bradford traffic officer shot □ WPC stabbed in face □ vice-squad officer beaten up by five youths

Police chief condemns 'low life' in violent weekend

Dalby: expects to be in hospital for two weeks

By Paul Wilkinson

A POLICE chief condemned the "degradation" in society and "unspeakable" criminals yesterday after a weekend that left two of his officers with stab and shotgun wounds and a third recovering from a vicious assault.

Keith Hellawell, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, said beat officers were the "heroes of the end of the 20th century" because of the bravery they showed in dealing with violent criminals.

He was speaking after PC Neil Dalby, 36, was shot in the leg shortly before midnight on Sunday by a man fleeing an armed robbery in Bradford.

On Saturday another Bradford officer, WPC Lisa Sharpe, was stabbed in the face when she tackled a man who was threatening a woman with a knife. WPC Sharpe needed six stitches to her cheek after the attack. A man was remanded in custody by magistrates yesterday in connection with the incident. On Sunday, Sergeant Peter Corkindale, a vice-squad officer, had stitches in his mouth after being assaulted by five youths while he was making inquiries in the city.

PC Dalby, a traffic officer, was shot as he chased four men who had abandoned a stolen car after crashing it in the Odsall district of Bradford. He and a colleague, who had been on routine police duty and who followed the vehicle when they saw it travelling erratically at high speed, were unaware that the men inside had just carried out an armed robbery at the Ball Park leisure centre.

As PC Dalby followed the fugitives, he was warned to 'back off' and at least one shot was fired. He was hit in the leg and needed emergency surgery for the removal of shotgun pellets from the thigh. He is recovering in Bradford Royal Infirmary. His injuries are not life-threatening and he is said to be comfortable. His colleague, PC Simon Binks, 28, was receiving treatment for shock yesterday.

Mr Hellawell said: "It shows what low life there is in society today. It's been a weekend of policing in Bradford which shows the sacrifice and bravery of police officers and the violence and unspeakable depths to which some criminals in this country will go in the furtherance of crime."

He said one of the most sickening aspects of the shooting was that only seconds after it happened a piece of electrical equipment was stolen from the stolen car. Police caught the thieves almost immediately.

Mr Hellawell said that although he did not want guns used regularly by police, "this is one circumstance where I would have felt firearms would have been useful to the officer". He said he wanted his officers to have CS gas or pepper sprays. "We've been pressing the Government for about three years to be issued with some form of propellant. It gives police officers more confidence."

He praised the courage an bravery of his men: "The police officers of this country are the heroes of the end of the 20th century. The people who take the brunt of the violence in this country are the young police officers who walk out on the streets. Every day they put their life at risk."

The shooting happened after the gunmen's car crashed into bollards. As PC Dalby, a single man from Bradford, cornered them in an alley, one of the men, a mixed race Asian, turned and fired at him with a shotgun from less than 20 yards. They fled leaving the officer, who is from Bradford, slumped on the ground and bleeding badly.

Fifteen minutes earlier, the four had held up the leisure centre, the home of the Yorkshire County Cricket Club's academy. The gang, wearing masks, had coshed the manager with a shotgun, causing a minor injury, before escaping with cash. Superintendent Nigel Sutcliffe, PC Dalby's station commander, said it was only through sheer luck that PC Dalby was not killed.

"The idea of aiming for a part of the body is a nonsense. He was aiming at the police officer and just happened to hit a fleshy part."

Detectives are treating the shooting as attempted murder. PC Dalby is expected to remain in hospital for at least two weeks.

Ageing population causes huge rise in social workers

By Russell Jenkins

SOCIAL work has become the fastest-growing occupation, with battalions of community care workers, residential care assistants and home helps recruited to look after an ageing population.

The growing army of "carers" outnumbers the nation's "protectors" by a margin of four to one: the caring services can pitch 964,000 social workers into the front line compared with only 238,000 serving in the entire Armed Forces.

Employment figures drawn up by the Central Statistical Office for the Government depict buoyant service industries set against dormant and declining manufacturing and construction sectors. The number working in the construction industry has fallen from 1,116,000 in 1990 to 818,000 last June, and the number employed in manufacturing from 4,605,000 to 3,840,000.

Caring for the elderly is big business and likely to get bigger as the nine million Britons now aged between 50 and 64 reach pensionable age. Their ranks will be swelled in the early decades of the next century as the post-war "baby boomers" start collecting their pensions. The number of social workers rose by nearly 25 per cent from 794,000 in June 1990 to 964,000 at the same time last year, almost entirely because of the expansion in care for the elderly.

The numbers of social workers employed by local authorities to monitor problem families has fallen slightly and there has been little increase in the number of carers working in residential homes in the public sector. However, the enormous growth in private residential homes in the late 1980s and early 1990s has created a huge market for professional carers such as care assistants and community psychiatrists.

John Findlay, social services national officer for Unison, the public sector union, said that the figures reflected a deep-seated change within society. Families no longer look after the old at home but expect them to be looked after in homes.

This has provided a huge source of employment but, with places costing about £325 a week, at an enormous cost to taxpayers and the families themselves.

Unison wants ministers to review the tax system to take account of the changes. They favour an increase in National Insurance contributions to take account of the rising costs of looking after the elderly.

The number working in the computer industry and related businesses has risen from 2,200,000 to 2,400,000 during the past five years, and inward investment and industrial construction are significant growth areas.

Elsewhere the figures show a picture of Britain at odds with the upbeat speeches of Trade Department ministers. The number working in the post and telecommunications industry has fallen from 462,000 to 395,000 in the past five years. The number of teachers, doctors and nurses has been roughly static.

In the construction industry, housing has yet to recover from the recession. Gary Roebuck, economic advisor for the Building Employers' Federation, said that about 460,000 jobs — a quarter of its workforce — have been lost since 1989.

The manufacturing sector has lost about 790,000 jobs in the past five years and unemployment in the industry is running at about 16 per cent. Some workers have moved to Germany and other continental countries in search of work and others are being retrained.

Mr Roebuck, reflecting the pessimistic mood among builders and developers, said: "The trend at the moment remains basically slowly downwards."

Ageless ageing, pages 12, 13

EMPLOYMENT FIGURES

Occupation	June 1990	June 1994	June 1995
Armed Forces	303,000	250,000	238,000
Construction	1,116,000	852,000	818,000
Education	1,805,000	1,763,000	1,770,000
Health activities	1,445,000	1, 457,000	1,458,000
Social work	794,000	927,000	964,000
Post and telecoms	462,000	410,000	395,000
Computer industries	2,203,000	2,233,000	2,403,000
Manufacturing	4,605,000	3,789,000	3,840,000

Source: Central Statistical Office

One of the photographs taken by the schoolgirls. The fairies were stuck to toadstools with hatpins

Cousins' fairy tale casts a spell over Hollywood film-makers

By Paul Wilkinson

A FAIRY story that intrigued the public for more than 50 years before being revealed as a children's hoax is to be made into a film. In 1917, two schoolgirl cousins, Elsie Wright, 15, and Frances Griffiths, 9, convinced the experts that they had photographed fairies dancing in the woods at Cottingley Dell near Bingley in West Yorkshire.

Kodak verified that the plates taken with the girls' old box Brownie camera were genuine and the novelist Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, a keen spiritualist, became a firm believer. Despite a close similarity to the fairies depicted by the illustrator Arthur Rackham, the pictures convinced thousands of people that fairies existed.

But in 1983 Elsie, long since married with children of her own, disclosed that it was all a trick to save Frances from being told off by her mother for falling into Cottingley Beck and getting her clothes wet. Now Paramount is planning a film, *The Golden Afternoon*, based on the girls' adventures that day. It will be shot at Pinewood studios and on location in Yorkshire. The Swedish director Lasse Hallström is to direct and his wife Lena Olin, who starred opposite Daniel Day-Lewis in *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, is tipped for a part.

The drawings by Elsie Hill were good enough to convince Sir Arthur Conan Doyle they were real

The film will show how Elsie Wright, later Mrs Frank Hill, and Frances, who died in 1986, copied the fairies from *Princess Mary's Gift Book* and used hatpins to stick them to toadstools as if they were dancing on them. They took the photographs to confirm their story that Frances had been been playing with the fairies in the brook. Mrs Hill later told how she had drawn the figures herself using sepia ink and how they cut them out. Frances cut round the fairies' hands so badly that experts who studied the pictures became convinced that they were webbed.

The plates were developed by her sceptical father and kept in a drawer until her mother mentioned them at a spiritualist lecture. Conan Doyle's sister was at the meeting and told her brother, who became almost obsessed with the supernatural after his son was killed during the First World War.

The writer sent his agent to Cottingley to examine the scene and obtain the plates. He published the pictures in *Strand* magazine and sent the girls £20 in war bonds. In 1922 he based his book *The Coming of the Fairies* on the photographs.

Mrs Hill said later that his intense interest put the girls off admitting it was a hoax. She said: "I felt that I could not now say they were fakes. It might have upset him dreadfully." She decided to confess in 1983 after thinking it would be unfair on her grandchildren if they discovered their grandmother had photographed fairies. "They might have been teased," she said. She also confessed to not believing in fairies. "I never have and never will."

Frances, however, asserted until she died that the photographs were genuine.

Much of the film will be shot in Yorkshire this spring but nowhere near Cottingley. A site in upper Wharfedale has been chosen near the beauty spot of Kilnsey Crags.

Victorian photographer blamed for whiff of supernatural world

By John Young

THE "ghost" of a Victorian photographer with an apparent aversion to music is causing something of a stink at her former home on the Isle of Wight.

Volunteers restoring the house in Freshwater, where Julia Margaret Cameron lived from 1860 until her death in 1879, complain that they are assaulted by an overpowering smell every time they switch on their music player.

Leo Cox, one of the volunteers working for the trust that owns the building, said: "It's a dank, earthy smell, like a rotting body that has been buried for years.

"The stench is quite overpowering: it really knocks you back." Mr Cox is familiar with such smells, having worked in a cemetery and a church crypt. He claims to have seen Mrs Cameron's ghost several times but, despite having two loaded cameras at the ready, has so far failed to capture it on film.

Mrs Cameron took up photography soon after her arrival in Freshwater at the age of 48. With Queen Victoria in frequent residence at nearby Osborne House after the death of Prince Albert, the village became a fashionable resort for famous writers, artists and actors.

Among her subjects were her long-time friend and neighbour, Alfred, Lord Tennyson, Charles Darwin, William Thackeray, the actress Ellen Terry, Robert Browning, Holman Hunt, Edward Lear, Lewis Carroll and Alice Liddell, the model for Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Although her work was decried by her professional contemporaries, mainly for chauvinistic reasons, she quickly acquired a popular following.

More than a century after her death, the Royal Photographic Society says that it receives more inquiries about Mrs Cameron than about any other British photographer.

The house was threatened with demolition to make way for a block of flats but was rescued by the trust in 1993 with support from, among others, the photographers David Bailey and Koo Stark and the actor Charlton Heston.

Among the trustees is Hugh Noyes, son of the poet Alfred Noyes, former High Sheriff of the Isle of Wight and one-time parliamentary correspondent of *The Times*.

Many people claim to have seen or heard Mrs Cameron's ghost, including the house's former owner, Julia Howard, who said that she often heard her taffeta skirt rustling next to her on the stairs.

Mr Cox is not alone in complaining of the smell. Ron Smith, the trust's chairman, and Brian Balshaw, the resident warden, have also suffered and audiences at musical evenings have been forced to hold their noses.

Mr Smith said: "It's really embarrassing. We've had the drains checked and they're OK."

Mrs Cameron's ghost is apparently not simply giving vent to its feelings about late 20th-century pop music. The concerts have chiefly featured 18th and 19th-century classical composers, including Vivaldi, Haydn and Liszt.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Eurostar train puts Kent on timetable

The high-speed Eurostar stopped at a provincial station for the first time yesterday. Previously the 186mph train ran straight from Waterloo station in London through the Channel Tunnel to Paris and Brussels. The new stop at Ashford International Terminal in Kent will not add to journey times, and fares from Ashford will be the same as from London. About nine trains a day are due to stop there.

Leading article, page 17

Jobcentre case

A woman accused of attempted murder at Bexleyheath Jobcentre in southeast London was remanded in custody. Pearline Ayton, 27, will appear before Bexley magistrates again next Monday charged with trying to kill Simon Bridge, Mandy King, Sonia Fairburn and Robert Wood last week. Her solicitor made no application for bail.

Court verdict

People in England and Wales are divided over allowing television cameras into court to film for broadcast. A MORI survey of 2,000 people for the BBC found 49 per cent against, 36 per cent in favour and 15 per cent undecided. Sixty-five per cent said they would favour an experiment similar to one in Scotland in 1994, with 27 per cent opposed.

Carpet cache

A collection of carpets worth up to £450,000 each, assembled by the Bernheimer family of Munich, founders of what was once the largest antiques and decorating firm in the world, is to be auctioned at Christie's in London next month. The carpets, some 500 years old, were hidden in monasteries to save them from Nazi treasure hunters.

Holiday club risk

Children are being put in danger in badly run, ill-equipped holiday clubs throughout the Mediterranean, *Holiday Which?* says today. Some clubs were run from the backrooms of bars and were overcrowded with little for youngsters to do. At others, children could run unsupervised across busy roads, the magazine reports.

Zoo charges

Two men charged over the slaughter of a collection of exotic birds were remanded in custody for a week by magistrates at Stratford, east London. James Allen, 19, of Canning Town, and Royston Budge, 18, of Plaistow, were accused of aggravated burglary at Plashet Park Zoo where 36 birds were killed.

About to receive

A pub and restaurant business owned by the television chef Keith Floyd went into receivership. Grant Thornton, the receivers, said the Maltsters at Tuckenhay, Devon, had failed because of losses incurred during its development phase. The inn, opened in 1989, would continue trading while a buyer was sought.

CORRECTION

A report on sexism in the City (December 21) referred to Samantha Phillips's award of £18,000 last year "after rejecting the advances of a married colleague". While her claim for unfair dismissal was upheld by an industrial tribunal, her allegation that she was sexually harrassed by Giles Wilkinson, the colleague concerned, was rejected. We apologise to Mr Wilkinson for the error.

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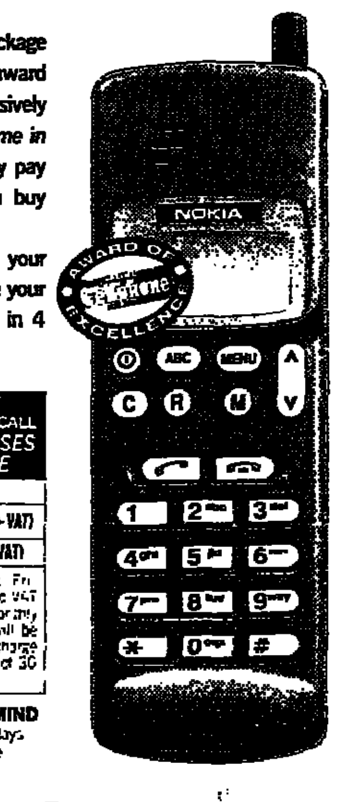


Former Shanghai welfare chief denies starving children to death and raping girl

China opens doors to answer claims of orphans' abuse

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN SHANGHAI

CHINA *threw open the doors* of an orphanage at the centre of an international *dispute* here yesterday in an unprecedented public relations exercise, but it failed to refute American reports that deliberate starvation had led to the preventable deaths of hundreds of children during the late 1980s and early 1990s.

The orphanage, the Shanghai Children's Welfare Institute, which cares for 512 orphans in an old and chilly former Catholic mission, was predictably functioning normally yesterday, as guests were shown well-fed, warmly-clad children being cared for by attentive staff.

The institute is held up as a *model for Chinese orphanages* even though until 1992, according to the New York-based Human Rights Watch, children were being deliberately starved to death. In the 331-page report, the group said "the brutal treatment of orphans in Shanghai, which included deliberate starvation, torture and sexual assault, continued over many years and led to the unnatural deaths of more than 1,000 children between 1988 and 1992". *However*, a government investigation completed by 1992 cleared the orphanage *of any wrongdoing*.

Now foreign couples visit the institute in the hope of adopting a child. Some of the scenes of mentally or severely physically handicapped children were harrowing, as they would be in any such institution, but many of the orphans were *playing happily* yesterday, as others received massage and *therapeutic treatments* for cerebral palsy and other physical and *mental* infirmities. Bizarrely and perhaps excessively, there was even a computer room for the children with new monitor screens.

The institute's former director, Han Weicheng, 48, who was accused by the rights *group of raping a girl in his* care, emphatically denied the reports that deliberate abuse and starvation had led to preventable deaths. He said that high mortality rates during that period phanage at that time was caused by medical problems, not abuse.

He admitted that the death rate had risen to 19 per cent — far below the "up to 90 per cent" alleged by the rights group — in the severe winter of 1989, when electrical power for heating failed, but he said *it was now about 3 to 5* per cent. "I don't know the details of the figures — I can't remember," Mr Han said.

Officials at the orphanage failed to provide statistics for these years, saying "we did not collect them". Given the previous investigation, and the present high-profile visit of correspondents, which the *Chinese Foreign Ministry had* helped to organise, this *seemed a significant omission*.

Correspondents were also not permitted to visit another orphanage on an island at the mouth of the Yangtze, where the group said abuses were continuing. But it has acknowledged that conditions in Shanghai have improved.

The Human Rights Watch report on the orphanage from 1988 to 1992 *draws heavily on* the evidence of Zhang Suyun, whom the group described as a physician. However, staff here denied she was a doctor. Mr Han said her comments had been "astonishing and appalling — it was as if this place were a slaughterhouse". He said she had wanted to become director of the institute, and *had* thus campaigned against him. "That's why she made these mean and base charges," he said.

Mr Han denied the rape allegations and said the girl was mentally retarded and had been urged to press charges by Mrs Zhang. She is said to have recanted, but there is no confirmation of this. If the Shanghai authorities failed to provide figures for mortality here in the late 1980s and early 1990s, neither has Human Rights Watch proved that, as it says, there was "clear evidence".

A Channel 4 programme tonight will look at the situation of China's alleged children's 'dying rooms' in more detail. The screening of the programme has already complicated the visit to China of Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary. Peking wants the British Government to stop the programme being shown.

Han Weichang, the former director of the Shanghai orphanage, plays with a child there yesterday during an officially sanctioned visit by foreign journalists. A US rights group alleges starvation and torture led to deaths of 1,000 children

Warning to Peking by Rifkind

FROM MICHAEL STEINBERGER IN HONG KONG

BRITAIN will consider taking China to the World Court if Peking carries out its threat to dismantle Hong Kong's Legislative Council in 1997, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday.

Mr Rifkind urged the mainland Government to *scrap plans to replace* the council with a provisional assembly. He told members London would be willing to appeal to the World Court or pursue any other legal options that might persuade China to keep the democratically elected legislature. However, *Peking does not* recognise the court's authority.

Mr Rifkind, in Hong Kong for several days of consultations before heading to Peking, fielded questions from council members in a half-empty chamber at a meeting open to public and press.

It was the first time a British Foreign Secretary had *appeared before Hong* Kong's legislature in an open *session and was seen as a* fence-mending gesture by Mr Rifkind, widely criticised for failing to tackle the council's future during talks in October with his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen.

Mr Rifkind promised to take a more assertive stand when he meets Mr Qian and other officials in Peking, where he will arrive today.

Jet crash in Zaire market 'kills 250'

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AT LEAST 250 people died yesterday when a cargo plane crashed into a crowded market in the centre of Kinshasa, the capital of Zaire, an official of the International Committee of the Red Cross said.

Most of the victims were women and children gathered in the market of corrugated iron and wooden shacks. "Many of the bodies were mutilated. The plane ploughed through the market for about 100 yards before it came to a halt," a witness said.

A fire crew from the nearby *Ndolo airport*, from where the Russian-made *Antonov 32* took off, rushed to the scene and tried to dampen the flames. Officials said the cargo jet overshot a runway and tore across a busy street into the marketplace at about 1pm. The jet ripped through cars and hawkers' stalls.

Witnesses said the plane then exploded. There was no official word on casualties, but hospital workers and the national news agency estimated that more than *200 people had died*.

It was not known what the jet was carrying or how many people were on board, although there were reported to be at least five crew.

The crash was the second in the past month involving a Zaire-based cargo jet. On December 18, a jet operated by Zaire's Trans Service Air*lift*, a charter firm, crashed in Angola, killing at least 136 people.

Head of shattered Shin Bet resigns over Rabin killing

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE head of Israel's internal security service Shin Bet resigned yesterday in a belated gesture over the *debacle* of November 4, when his agents *failed to prevent the assassination* of Yitzhak Rabin, the *Prime Minister*.

The departure of the man known only as "K", the initial of his first name, for security reasons had been expected, but political sources said that it had been delayed because Shimon Peres, the new Prime Minister, was afraid that without him the shattered service might fall apart completely.

A number of leading Shin Bet members have stood down since the organisation's *disastrous* performance at the Tel *Aviv peace rally when Rabin* was shot by a right-wing *Jewish militant*, Yigal Amir, 25, who was able to approach him at close range without being challenged.

Asked to confirm radio reports about the resignation yesterday, Aliza Goren, chief spokeswoman for Mr Peres, said: "Unfortunately, yes." Most Israeli intelligence analysts had expected the resignation to come with publication of the state commission of inquiry's report on the killing.

Ironically "K", who only took the post at the beginning *of last year, was regarded as* an expert on right-wing Jewish *extremists and was resent*ed by many of his colleagues who regarded the Arab threat as the greatest risk to the future of the state.

According to Israeli officials, "K" was out of the country on unspecified secret business when Rabin was shot. The inquiry commission has heard evidence from witnesses who said they had advised him not to leave because of the risk of *violence at the rally*.

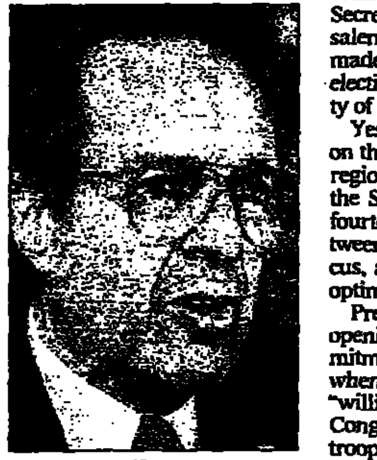
"K" will stay at his post until *a successor is found. Morale* in Shin Bet is said to be extremely *low*, with further sackings expected when the commission's report appears.

Yesterday the Clinton Administration deepened its involvement in the Middle East peace process, promising peacekeeping troops for the Golan Heights after any accord between Israel and Syria.

The promise was given by William *Perry*, the Defence Secretary, after talks in Jerusalem with *Mr Peres, who has* made peace with Syria before *elections in October the priori*ty of his Government.

Yesterday's *statement* came on the eve of the arrival in the region of Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, on his fourteenth shuttle mission between Jerusalem and Damascus, amid a mood of cautious optimism on both sides.

President Clinton made the opening for yesterday's commitment in November 1994 *when he said that he would* be "willing to make the case" to Congress for putting US troops on the Golan Heights, the strategic plateau occupied by Israeli forces since 1967.


Perry: offer to police any Golan agreement

Road mayhem condemns India to annual death toll of 60,000

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA'S roads claimed *60,000 lives* last year, making them among the world's most deadly. A vengeful, never-back-down style of driving, coupled with poor and corrupt policing, is to blame.

Congestion and carnage are increasing in line with traffic. *Delhi*, always top of the deaths' league table, surpassed *itself in* 1995 with 2,078 fatalities in more than 9,000 accidents — 10 per cent up on 1994. There were 3,650 deaths on Britain's roads in 1994.

There has been a marked *increase* in competition for highway space in the past two years, with no corresponding increase in traffic police. In Delhi, they are as rare as winter frost — fewer than 2,000 in a city of 2.5 million vehicles. The capital has more vehicles than Bombay, Calcutta and Madras combined, but proportionately fewer policemen.

The Central Road Research Institute, reporting on the 1995 carnage, observed that Delhi had the lowest level of traffic discipline — obvious to any visitor.

There is no concept of sticking to lanes, nor of basic rules of courtesy. Might wins: buses are king of the road, causing a substantial proportion of deaths. Many bus and lorry drivers are not properly qualified and if caught without a licence can usually pay a bribe and keep on driving. Since 1981 cities with more than one million people have risen from 11 to 23. Most are choked with traffic. Rarely is there any attempt to control emissions pollution. In Delhi the biggest polluters are government buses and two-stroke scooters.

Pedestrians were the main victims last year, accounting for 40 per cent of deaths nationwide. In Calcutta, where crowds spill on to packed roads, 90 per cent of deaths involved pedestrians.

Traffic deaths peak during festive seasons, when drink driving is particularly widespread. In Delhi, there are rarely any police spot checks. When there are, the breathalyser is used more to extract bribes than breath.

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هكذا من الأصل

Republican rivals turn their fire on 'Senator Straddle'

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

WITH just five weeks left until the Iowa caucuses, the Republican presidential candidates have rounded on Robert Dole, the clear front-runner, in a last-ditch attempt to deprive him of the party's nomination.

For months Phil Gramm, Lamar Alexander, Steve Forbes and Pat Buchanan have fought among themselves to become the Senate majority leader's main challenger, but since the new year they have turned their fire on him, because his hold on the race was seen to be fast becoming unbreakable.

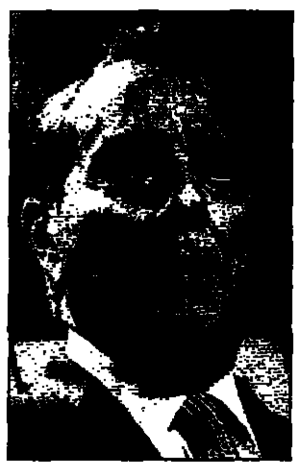
In a key speech to the conservative Heritage Foundation late last week, Mr Alexander, the former Governor of Tennessee, said that the lacklustre Mr Dole would be a "sitting duck" for President Clinton in the election and would lose the Republicans not just the White House but Congress too.

Mr Dole was too old, lacked vision and had spent almost his entire career in Washington. "We must bring ourselves to say to Senator Dole, 'We appreciate your long service in the Senate but, with respect, the debate next October with Bill Clinton is not the right place for you to be'," Mr Alexander said. "It may be Senator Dole's turn, but it is not his revolution."

Mr Gramm, the conservative Texas senator, has seized on Mr Dole's compromises in Washington's budget negotiations to resurrect the "Senator Straddle" slur that George Bush used so successfully in 1988's New Hampshire primary after Mr Dole refused to sign a pledge on no new taxes. Mr Gramm is broadcasting commercials that begin: "Remember Senator Straddle? He cuts deals and voters rejected him. Well, Bob Dole hasn't changed."

Mr Forbes, the publishing tycoon, may be a political novice but he is airing the most negative commercials of the lot. These are mostly directed at Mr Dole, portraying him as an incurable Washington tax-and-spender, but ironically Mr Forbes's $10 million (£6.5 million) advertising blitz over the past three months has actually helped Mr Dole by eclipsing Mr Gramm and Mr Alexander.

Mr Dole gave his more conservative rivals a fat target last week by breaking ranks with Newt Gingrich, the Republican House Speaker, and demanding the reopening of the federal government after a record 21-day shutdown, but a new Gallup poll yesterday suggested that was a popular move with the public.

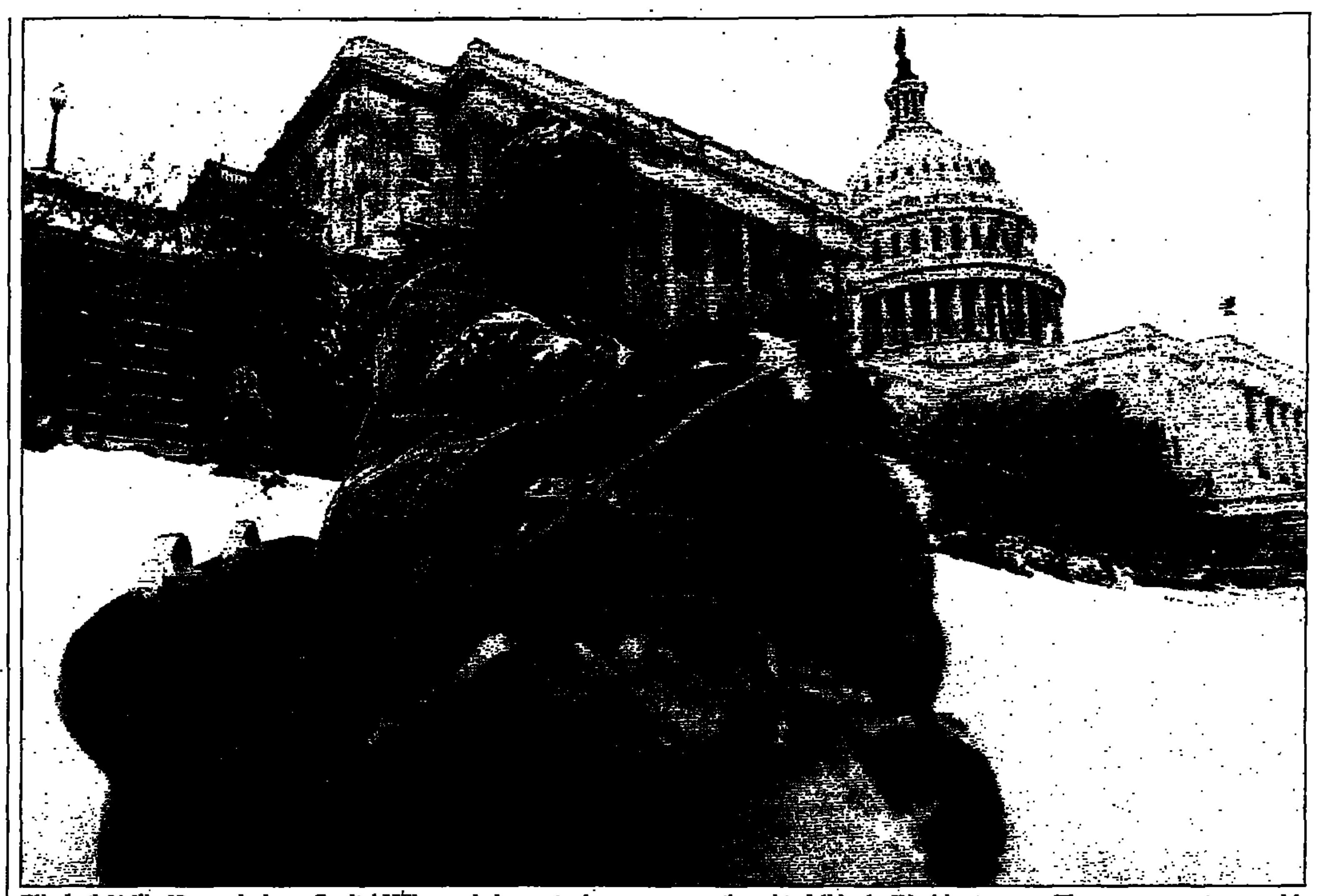


Dole: hold on race is becoming unbreakable

It showed Mr Clinton's nine-point lead over Mr Dole last month had shrunk to just one point, and that he was level with Mr Clinton when respondents were asked who had handled the budget crisis best. Mr Dole "was seen as more humane, less rigid and not in Newt's pocket", said Stephen Hess, a political analyst at the Brookings Institution in Washington. The poll also showed that Mr Clinton's approval rating had slumped to 42 per cent from 51 per cent when the shutdown began on December 15.

Mr Dole sees his rivals' attacks as a perverse form of flattery. Nelson Warfield, his spokesman, said: "There's a growing sense of desperation among those in the back of the pack and sadly they seem to have decided that the only way to advance themselves is to lash out at Bob Dole ... They'll reduce themselves to a group that most people won't want to sit in a bus with."

☐ **Back to business:** After the federal worker layoffs and the emergence of a new Clinton plan, the White House and Congress will again sit down this week for talks on a seven-year balanced budget. *(AP)*



Elizabeth Vellis, 12, speeds down Capitol Hill on a sledge yesterday as snow continued to fall in the Washington area. The worst snowstorms to hit the American capital in decades have forced the closure of government offices and schools, and confined a million people to their homes

Snow forces new Washington shutdown

***Tom Rhodes** encounters visions resembling the aftermath of apocalypse in a car journey through the American capital. The Arctic conditions have closed government offices and businesses*

It was 6.45am, pitch dark and mine was the sole car inching along the icy highway from the Virginia suburbs into Washington when a figure flagged me down from the top of a 4ft snowdrift. I touched the brakes and the car spun around through 180 degrees.

The figure climbed in and began peeling off layers of scarves, hats and coats. "Sorry about that," said the cheery woman who finally emerged. "I'm a nurse. My car's buried and I've got to get to my hospital. They've had no relief for 48 hours. Plus, I can help you push if you get stuck."

And so we crawled on past the occasional abandoned vehicle into a capital paralysed by its second-worst snowstorm of the century, a city like a shrouded vision after the apocalypse.

Occasional huddled figures flitted through the snow, tramps sheltered beside steaming sidewalks. Underground stations were empty but for a few stalwart travellers.

Not a shop, office, school or restaurant was open. Only those like the nurse, who had to work, had ignored the official warnings and ventured out. More than a million people in and around America's capital are stranded in their homes until fleets of snowploughs and salting lorries can begin to make inroads into the downfall.

In an irony lost on few in Washington yesterday, the continuing blizzards had also closed the seat of American government on the day President Clinton and the Congress had agreed that 250,000 federal workers should return to their jobs after more than three weeks of the budget impasse.

With 16in of snow having fallen overnight in the capital's centre, and two feet on the runways at Dulles International Airport, officials had taken a decision none had wanted: to close all government offices under the weight of the blizzard.

"It's kind of God's revenge on the craziness of Washington, I guess," said John Sturdivant, head of the American Federation of Government Employees.

Mr Clinton, who had braved the snowdrifts to attend church the previous day, cancelled his fundraising lunch only streets away from the White House but agreed to meet the Republican leadership over plans for a balanced budget.

Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, called off his mission to Jerusalem and Damascus, one of thousands grounded by the closure of Washington's satellite airports.

The British Embassy was closed to all but essential workers running switchboards and cable offices. One staff member said: "There can't be more than ten people in today."

Only the Supreme Court, the last bastion of the legislature and guardian of the Constitution, continued to sit yesterday.

In a city renowned for the efficiency of its traffic police, it was somehow appropriate that Marion Barry, the Mayor, should announce that his wardens had worked for 18 hours, clearing the roads of unwanted cars and issuing hundreds of parking tickets to many who were probably unable to move their stranded vehicles.

Among those who failed to heed travel warnings the previous night, one underground driver was killed when his train skidded into another. About 200 people were stranded for six hours through the night on an unheated commuter train stalled by the storm. At least 120 people, 90 of them bedridden, were evacuated from a nursing home after the roof fell in. There were no injuries.

Computer failures plague Denver showcase airport

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

DENVER'S huge international airport, which opened late and $2 billion (£1.2 billion) over budget, has been plagued with failures in its crucial radar and computer systems.

There were breakdowns on three out of every four days between May and October last year, the *Denver Post* has reported. Air traffic controllers' screens have gone blank, the control tower has lost track of taxi-ing aircraft and pilots have been given wildly inaccurate weather forecasts.

Officials insisted passengers have not been endangered — merely delayed by the use of old-fashioned back-up systems. But the report will be a severe embarrassment to the airport's backers, including Federico Pena, President Clinton's Transport Secretary. America's first big new airport in 20 years was intended as the last word in convenience and passenger safety. It was also meant to lift Colorado into the top rank of international business centres. Instead, from the first testing of its vaunted automatic baggage handling system, it has been ridiculed.

The system was designed to do away with the armies of baggage handlers employed at most airports, replacing them with hundreds of miles of automatic conveyors. At its first public demonstration, designer bags emerged mauled and useless. The $4.5 billion airport opened with manual baggage handling.

The construction of the airport brought protests from Indians, claiming sacred land had been defiled, and Denverites who objected to the extra 20-mile drive to catch a plane.

The new report, compiled from documents obtained under America's Freedom of Information Act, shows that last August there was not a single day on which all the computer systems functioned properly. Weather radar frequently reported storms when conditions were perfect and sometimes failed to spot dangerous "wind shear" conditions generated by the nearby Rocky Mountains.

The Federal Aviation Administration has acknowledged that perfecting the radar and computer systems could cost millions.

23 die in worst American blizzards for 70 years

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS
IN NEW YORK

TWENTY-THREE deaths in eastern America were blamed yesterday on the region's worst snowstorms for 70 years.

Thousands were left without power and most travel by plane and road was nearly impossible. Even the subways were affected as snow and ice collected on above-ground sections, with 200 people stranded for hours on a Metro train in Washington, and widespread disruptions on New York City's system.

Main airports for Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Newark, New Jersey, and New York City closed and converted their waiting areas into overnight shelters.

Drifts at New York airports were as high as 20ft, according to George Marlin, the port authority's executive director. In the Caribbean, American Airlines reached most passengers to tell them it had cancelled 17 flights between snowed-in cities and its sunny hub in Puerto Rico. About 2,000 passengers were stranded, but only a few who had not heard the news arrived at San Juan airport.

The storm, which took snow from Georgia to New England and as far west as Ohio, left 43in in the hills of southern West Virginia, 30in in parts of Virginia and eastern Tennessee, and 24in in eastern Kentucky. Even northeastern Georgia got a foot. In Toler, Kentucky, Cindy Rogers, a nurse, got to work with the help of the National Guard, which picked her up at her house in a four-wheel-drive Humvee.

Philadelphia's 30in of snow broke the 1983 record, and 22in fell in parts of New York City. Parts of Connecticut had 21in and Boston had 10in. The international airport at Newark, New Jersey, broke the 1947 record with 27.4in, and Washington had a record 17.1in. On New York's Long Island, a Coast Guard helicopter rescued four duck hunters and a dog from a 14ft skiff in the Great South Bay. On Sunday, they became disoriented as the bay froze around them, and used a mobile phone to summon help. The postal service said no mail would be delivered around New York City or Washington.

Superman ride will terrify at 100mph

BY GILES WHITTELL

CONSTRUCTION has begun in California on the world's fastest, strangest and no doubt most terrifying roller-coaster.

The ride, planned to open in May, begins with a horizontal acceleration to 100mph, leaves passengers weightless for six long seconds and is all over within half a minute.

"Superman: The Escape" is being built at the Six Flags Magic Mountain theme park north of Los Angeles. Its owner, Time Warner, hopes to generate enough publicity and custom to earn back its investment by breaking the 100mph barrier, which is to roller-coaster engineers what the sound barrier was to aeronautical engineers in the 1950s.

They will do so with an electro-magnetic catapult. Unlike conventional roller-coasters, which begin with a butterfly-inducing crawl up an artificial hill, this one will send its six-tonne cars hurtling along a flat track, thanks to magnetic accelerators like those long dreamt of for high-speed trains.

Once their top speed has been gained, the cars will lurch into a climb and will then appear to hang momentarily at the top of a 415ft tower. Passengers will finally plummet earthwards at something approaching terminal velocity and decelerate backwards along the same flat track. "People have been talking about 100mph roller-coasters for the past century," Paul Ruben of the magazine *Park World* told the *Los Angeles Times*. "The roller-coaster 'arms race' has been inching skyward, but this is a quantum leap."

Until the new ride opens, the fastest 'coaster in the world remains "Desperado", a two-year-old monster in Stateline, Nevada, whose screaming charges descend its first incline at a terrifying 94mph.

Loops and twists are out of the question on the "Superman" ride, Time Warner says, because of the stresses on construction materials and the human body at such high speeds. Passengers will be subjected to a "G-force" of 1.5 Gs as they accelerate, and at the top of the ride will be able to leave a pencil dangling in front of their noses as if they were in space.

US court rejects call on condoms

Washington: The Supreme Court rejected a challenge to the distribution of condoms in public schools. The judges, without comment, turned away arguments that such a condom-availability programme in Falmouth, Massachusetts, schools wrongly interferes with parents' right to guide their children's moral upbringing. *(AP)*

Island quake

Sakhalin Island: A strong earthquake rocked northern Sakhalin Island in the same area where a quake destroyed an entire town last spring. No casualties were immediately reported. *(AP)*

Victory claim

Guatemala City: Alvaro Arzu, a former Foreign Minister who promised to further democracy in Guatemala, proclaimed himself the winner of the country's presidential elections. *(AP)*

Japan choice

Tokyo: Japan's coalition formally nominated Ryutaro Hashimoto, Trade and Industry Minister, as Prime Minister, paving the way for him to take up the post this week. *(Reuter)*

Portugal floods

Lisbon: Rain lashed the Portuguese capital, cutting off power in the city centre and flooding suburbs, civil defence officials said. Several roads were blocked and one railway line was submerged. *(Reuter)*

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Defender of OJ seeks stardom as judge on TV

BY GILES WHITTELL

THE LAWYER who won O. J. Simpson's acquittal may take the final step in his transformation from civil rights activist to out-and-out celebrity. Johnnie Cochran wants to be an actor.

The flamboyant black defence attorney is working with a leading Hollywood television producer to develop a television series in which he would star as a judge, according to an entertainment magazine published on the Internet.

Mr Cochran has already landed the most lucrative book deal, worth more than $4 million (£2.6 million), of any Simpson trial participant and is said to get nearly $50,000 an appearance on the US lecture circuit — on a par with General Colin Powell and former President George Bush.

Cochran: won praise for Simpson trial "acting"

The series would star a younger actor playing his nephew who "would really be like me when I was younger", Mr Cochran told the Internet columnist Mr Showbiz. Viacom, the parent company of Paramount Pictures, confirmed at the weekend that the project was in the pipeline, with Dean Hargrove, producer of the long-running detective series *Columbo*, at the helm.

This is Mr Cochran's first foray into the performing arts, but many believe he acted to the hilt to obtain Mr Simpson's acquittal. He was certainly willing to pull on a woolly hat in court to suggest his client could not have used it as a disguise, and his taste in theatrical oratory offended millions when he likened a racist detective to Hitler.

A former prosecutor in the Los Angeles District Attorney's office, Mr Cochran swapped sides in the early 1980s to build a hugely succesful law practice defending black victims of police abuse. His fellow partners are all black, and most are millionaires.

Now 58, he took delivery of his first Rolls-Royce 18 years ago. His latest bears the number plate JC1.

Meanwhile, his last client has yet to find a new livelihood. Rebuffed by publishers and sellers of sports memorabilia, O. J. Simpson is making a video telling his side of the story of his former wife's death.

An "infomercial" is planned to promote the video, but no television station has yet agreed to broadcast it.

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Branson rival first to lift off in world balloon race

*Richard Branson does not take off on his attempt to circumnavigate the world until Sunday but, **Oliver August** reports, he believes he will still complete the trip more quickly than his opponent*

AN AMERICAN banker is trying to beat Richard Branson to the title of first man to circumnavigate the globe in a balloon, the last remaining major aviation record.

Steve Fossett, a 51-year-old securities trader from Chicago, lifted off yesterday morning from a dry river bed in South Dakota while Mr Branson, who announced his bid for the title last summer, will not be airbound until Sunday.

Mr Branson, who sent Mr Fossett a good-luck card, said: "The race is on. We congratulate the American team for being off before us. We will lift off early next week and plan to fly higher and therefore faster and plan to overtake them. I hope Steve Fossett has a wonderful experience and safe journey."

Mr Branson's *Virgin Global Challenger* has the advantage of being fully heated and pressurised, while Mr Fossett will have to survive with a sleeping bag and an oxygen mask in his balloon. This will allow Mr Branson to fly at 30,000ft, while Mr Fossett will be at 20,000ft.

The *Virgin Global Challenger* was built by Per Lindstrand, one of Mr Branson's two team members, and will collect environmental research data on air pollution during the flight.

Mr Branson's departure was delayed by the recent cold weather in Britain, which forced the vital jet streams south. The late start means that he will now take off from Marrakesh in Morocco. Mr Branson hopes to complete his trip in 18 days, while his rival believes it will take him 21 days to cover the same distance at the lower altitude.

Mr Fossett's support team in Chicago described the trader as an enthusiast and adventurer. "He is a very competitive guy," a spokesman said. "Competing in his job just isn't enough for him. Now he is battling with your Richard Branson. But it's not deadly serious."

Mr Fossett, who made his fortune through commodities investments, is paying for the venture himself and is flying solo in an unpressurised capsule. "We're going to have a good go at it," Mr Fossett told a crowd of about 100 people just before he lifted off at sunrise from the Stratobowl, a natural depression near Rapid City in South Dakota's Black Hills.

The American's previous feats include crossing the Atlantic Ocean in a balloon and swimming across the English Channel. He holds the world distance record for his balloon flight from Korea to Canada as well as the world speed sailing record across the Pacific. If the voyage goes as planned, Mr Fossett's *Solo Challenger* will be propelled by wind across the Atlantic and Europe, over Ukraine, Kazakhstan, China, Japan and finally the Pacific.

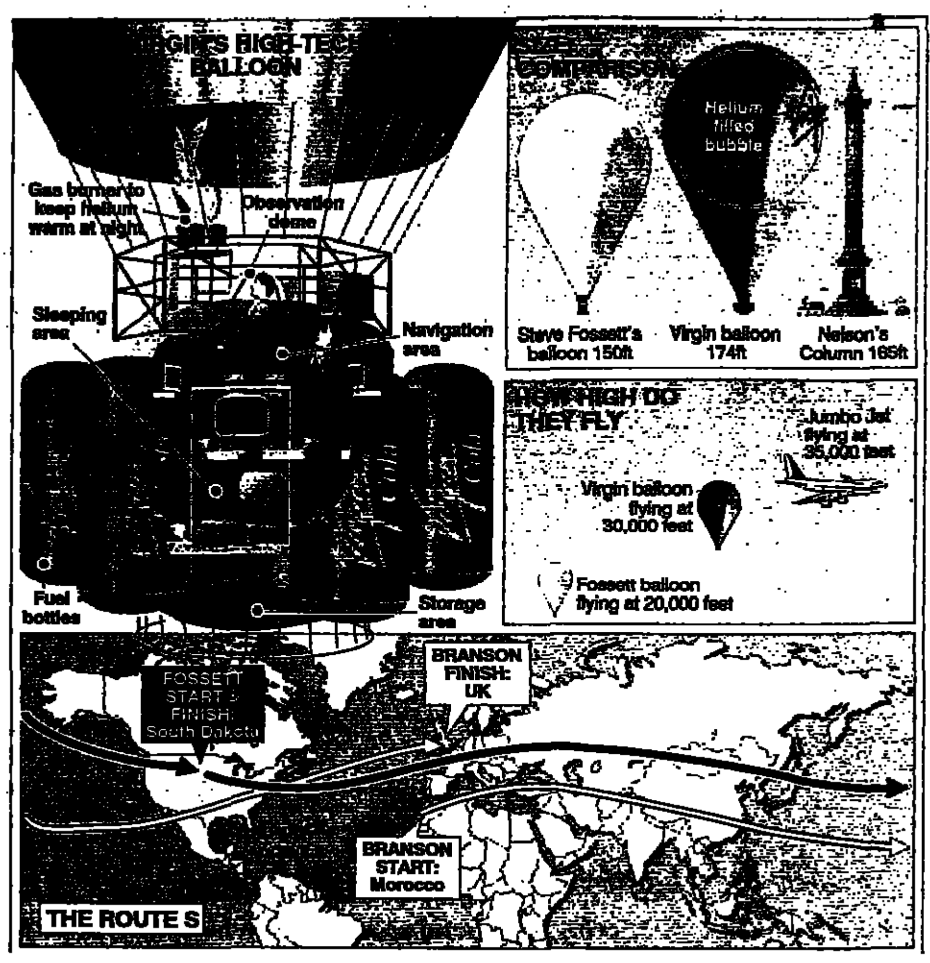
His balloon will travel at an average 35 miles an hour over land and 50 miles an hour over sea, although in previous flights Mr Fossett's balloon has been recorded at speeds of up to 180 miles an hour.

The balloon has been equipped with three global positioning systems, which will calculate his position from satellites. In case of a disaster, a satellite emergency locater beacon can be activated to guide searchers.

A team of meteorologists and long-distance ballooning experts has been in South Dakota since before Christmas preparing for the voyage.

Fully inflated, the craft holds 200,000 cu ft of helium and 60,000 cu ft of hot air. The balloon is 150ft tall and 50ft wide. Solar power, backed up by a propane generator, will provide electricity to support the systems on board.

Steve Fossett gathering up his balloon after finishing his four-day record-breaking flight across the Pacific in February last year



Battle sharpens for succession to Papandreou

By Philip Pangalos

TWO clear front-runners have emerged as the successor to Andreas Papandreou, the ailing Socialist Prime Minister of Greece, who remains in a critical condition seven weeks after being admitted to the Onassis Cardiac Hospital in Athens.

Mr Papandreou, 76, is on life-support systems while his 40-year-old wife Mimi is being accused by the Greek press of blocking the succession in an attempt to further her own political ambitions.

The leadership favourites are Gerassimos Arsenis, the US-educated National Defence Minister and former Economy Minister, and Costas Simitis, the German-educated former Industry Minister and a reformist in the Socialist Party (Pasok).

Mr Arsenis, who has a growing international reputation and has been praised recently for his behind-the-scenes negotiations in the Balkans and the Middle East, has been gaining ground on Mr Simitis. Last summer he overshadowed Greece's Foreign Minister by persuading the Bosnian Serbs to allow the United States military to rescue unchallenged the American pilot downed over Bosnia.

Arsenis: international reputation growing

The leaders of Pasok will hold a central committee meeting on January 20 and have vowed to find a solution to the country's political paralysis. However, the committee has not said how long the procedure will take and the Greek constitution allows for the head of government to be replaced only if he dies or resigns. The delay in choosing a successor to Mr Papandreou led the conservative opposition New Democracy party to table a motion of censure yesterday against the Government.

Miltiades Evert, the party leader, said his intention was "to take the country out of its present crisis". Although Mr Evert has no chance of succeeding against Pasok's 170-strong majority in the 300-seat parliament, the motion puts pressure on the Socialists.

Mr Arsenis, 64, told *The Times* that, if he were Greece's leader, he would maintain a "steady as she goes" policy and vowed to continue with the austerity programme. The two big challenges for tha nation were Greece's identity in southeastern Europe and the economic development of the country.

"A special feature of Greece as a member of the European Union is its very intimate ties with the Balkan area and the eastern Mediterranean. We have to take a number of initiatives, now that the prospects of peace in Bosnia and the Middle East have improved, that relate to the eventual development of a zone of free exchanges and markets in the Balkans and in the Middle East. Greece can become a catalyst in initiatives that will underpin this process of open markets.

"Greece could promote the idea of a peripheral council of co-operation of the Balkan countries where government, private and EU finance initiatives for the infrastructure of the area, for telecommunications for new technologies and transportation could be discussed and co-ordinated . . .

"I see Greece as a member of the EU which could play for Europe the role of a catalyst in bringing closer to Europe the Balkan area and eastern Mediterranean. After all, the historical role of Greece all along has been to be at the crossroads between East and West, North and South."

Of Turkey, Mr Arsenis said: "A Turkey which moves closer to European norms and standards is good for Turkey, is good for Europe and is good for Greece as well." The question of human rights in Turkey, however, continued to be a problem, and the stance of Turkey on the Cyprus issue was "very discouraging".

Bonn faces court case in 'mad cow' clash

From Roger Boyes in Bonn

GERMANY may soon be in the dock of the European Court of Justice because of a dispute over curbs on British beef imports. The fear "mad cow" disease has prompted the Bundesrat, the upper house of the parliament, to call for a ban on British beef, putting Bonn at odds with European legislation.

Horst Seehöfer, the Health Minister, helped to create a national scare over British beef in 1994, which led to a European compromise allowing some limits on imported cattle. The German federal states are, however, refusing to accept this compromise.

Herr Seehöfer has twice applied emergency measures to make the European ruling valid in Germany. But these measures can only be imposed for a six-month period and it is unlikely that he can take such a step again when the term runs out on February 5.

"The most likely course is that the minister will let Germany be taken to the European Court by the Commission on the ground of impeding free trade," a senior political analyst said. "The minister could thus underline to the provincial states that this is not his decision — Europe is to blame."

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Machiavellian fox who could transform himself into a man of principle

Steady steps to power: François Mitterrand as a child with his grandfather, left: as a soldier at the beginning of the Second World War: with Jean-Paul Sartre after peace was restored: as Justice Minister in 1956

The enigma who gave power to a united Left

By R.W. Johnson

THROUGHOUT his long political career — he was a junior minister in 1945 — François Mitterrand remained an enigma. A man of enormous political talent, he *also earned the reputation of* being "too clever by half" and a political fox.

The shadow cast by the several Mitterrand *affaires* down the years never really *lifted. It was not the least* remarkable thing about his career that he nonetheless had several reincarnations as a man of principle.

It was probably only in his last years, when the revelations of his youthful association with the far Right and Vichy came to light, together with the disclosures that he had in effect maintained an entire alternative family, including a now adult illegitimate daughter, that some real hint was given of how much of M Mitterrand's life had been so long and so successfully hidden. By then, however, it was too late to matter.

M Mitterrand's many periods in office under the Fourth Republic made him an almost stereotypical "man of the system", but he managed to emerge as the leader of principled opposition to the institutions of the Fifth Republic (which he termed *"le coup d'état permanent") and as de* Gaulle's most notable opponent from the early 1960s on.

De Gaulle himself had a high regard for Mendes-France and for many Social*ists such as Guy Mollet and* André Philippe, but he nourished a tireless enmity for M *Mitterrand from the very* beginning, as if recognising the David to his Goliath, or, as he would doubtless have seen it, the Mordred to his King Arthur.

In the 1965 presidential election, M Mitterrand rallied *nearly 45 per cent of the* electorate to his side and forced de Gaulle into an *unexpected second ballot.* From that moment M Mitterrand was always the man *most likely to lead the Left* back to power.

Undoubtedly his greatest achievement was the way in which, to that end, he unflaggingly deployed a sophisticated strategy over the next 16 years, gradually uniting the scattered divisions of the Left into an overwhelming electoral force. That he achieved by rebuilding the discredited French Socialist Party (the PS) so that it finally overtook the originally far stronger Communist Party, thus altering the centre of gravity of French political life. Probably no one else could have done that.

M Mitterrand's strategy required not merely great fortitude and foresight but also great patience and an ability to keep his head under very heavy fire. Time and again, as the Communists lost ground they furiously attacked M Mitterrand in the hope that he would attack them back and thus antagonise Communist voters. Over and over again M Mitterrand turned the other cheek, for his strategy depended on gradually coaxing just those voters over to his side.

In the end M Mitterrand did just that, allowing him to sweep the Left to power in 1981 *and, within it, to provide the* PS with an overall parliamentary majority. The history of that government was altogether less happy. M Mitterrand's grasp of economics was poor and his initial over-expansion *of demand led to an economic* Waterloo by 1983: the rest of his presidency was spent in a *disorderly retreat. During* that retreat, almost every vestige of his principled new *version of socialism was jetti*soned, rather as Napoleon's army threw away its weapons *on the long retreat from* Moscow. Things were never the same again.

M Mitterrand had nothing if not a princely conception of his own role and seemed quite unbothered by this ideological shift or the damage it did to the PS. Again, in 1988, he showed himself a master of *political tactics and recovered* from an apparently hopeless position to trounce Jacques *Chirac in the presidential* election, thus becoming both the first President to cohabit *successfully with an Opposi*tion majority and also the only man ever to have won two *presidential elections in* France under the Fifth Republic. Again, however, the fruits of victory were wasted. Indeed, the fatal damage was done immediately, in the succeeding parliamentary election, when M Mitterrand deployed all manner of Machiavellian tactics in an effort *to push in a number of* personal friends and centrist clients and thus rebalance his *coalition.*

POLITICAL FOX

Those tactics failed dismally as they were always bound to *do: all M Mitterrand did was* to confuse and demoralise the PS and thus rob it of the overall majority which it could undoubtedly have won had he put his full weight behind it. The result was to produce a *minority PS government* which never really managed to stamp its authority on the *country in the five years that* followed.

Again, M Mitterrand jinxed *his way through with all* manner of sidesteps and dummies.

His favourite tactic was to lie in wait for opponents and then make an apparent sortie *into their path. The opponent* — M Chirac was a habitual victim — would sally forth onto the attack, only to find that the whole move had been a feint and that they were now exposed to raking fire from a wholly unexpected direction.

After his re-election in 1988 M Mitterrand maintained power *with no real Left major*ity because of his adroitness in dividing the Right, even co*vertly assisting Jean-Marie Le* Pen's National Front to that end.

This Levantine cleverness was often matched by personal pettiness. Though having selected the most able *Prime* Minister in sight in Michel Rocard, M Mitterrand allowed *his purely personal* antipathy to M Rocard to wreck the best chance that his government had. *M Rocard* was dismissed as Prime Minister for no perceptible reason and M Mitterrand's *old girl*friend, Edith Cresson, was promoted way beyond her peers or indeed her talents to become the most disastrous and short-lived Prime Minister in recent French history.

The Bérégovoy administration which followed was undistinguished, to say the least, and its culmination in scandal and the suicide of Bérégovoy himself brought the long period of left-wing government to a disastrous and demoralised end.

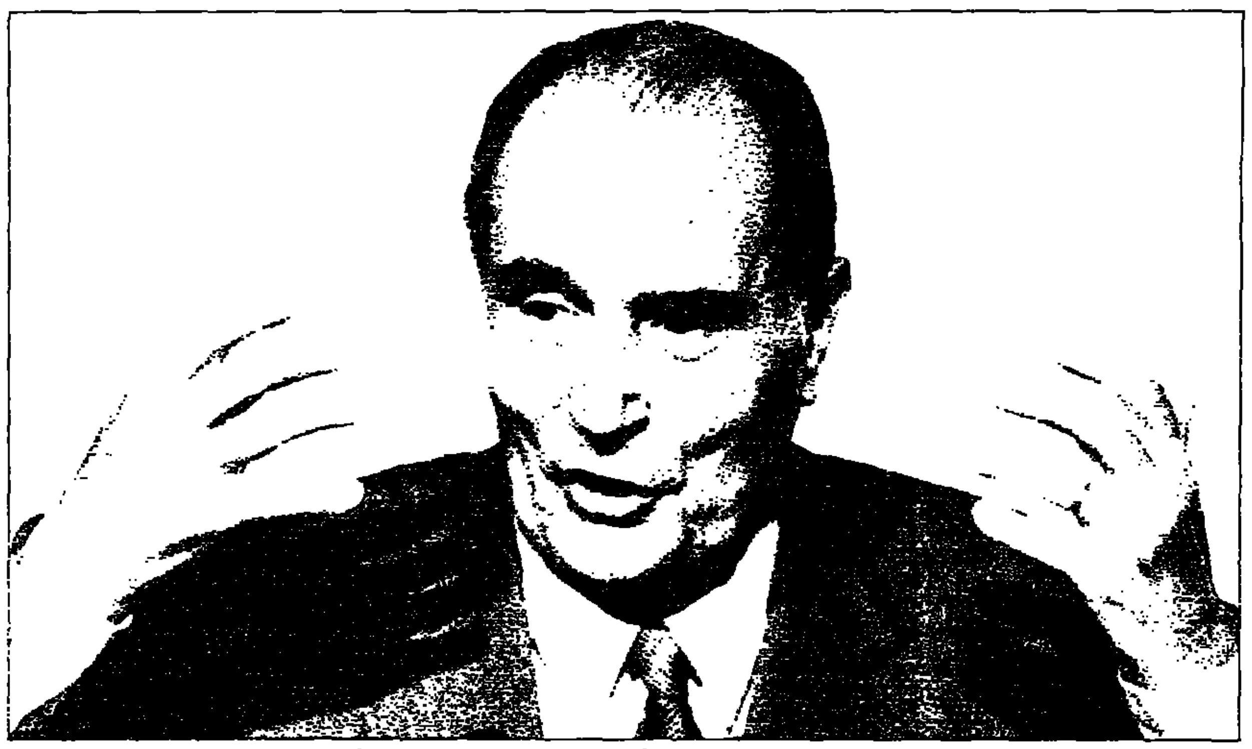
None of that seemed to trouble M Mitterrand, who had, long before the end, developed a strongly monarchical conception of his own role. As he put it, the institutions of the Fifth Republic *might not have been made for* him, but they suited him well enough all the same.

His second presidential term was a mistake and subtracted from rather than added to the Mitterrand legend. He did nothing at all to help his party in the 1995 elections and Lionel Jospin, the PS candidate, clearly felt he had been badly let down by his old boss. Nonetheless, Jospin's ability to pull together the divided ranks of the Left and to give M Chirac a much *closer run than had been* anticipated, was in itself a tribute to M Mitterrand.

*Even after all the disap*pointments and betrayals, the old earthworks of the united *Left were intact. M Mitter*rand had changed the Left into a force that could bid for *power: that achievement* remains.

Nicknamed "the Sphinx" *for his inscrutability,* "the Florentine" for his Machiavellian ways, and "God" in a popular television satire show, M Mitterrand had the ability to inspire emotions ranging from reverence to deep irritation. George Bush, the former American President, said some world leaders would "roll their eyes" when he launched into a philosophical lecture about history.

Perhaps symbolically, his last journey was a Christmas visit to Egypt, the cradle of modern civilisation. After his first prostate operation in 1992, M Mitterrand described his fight against cancer as "an *honourable battle against one*self". People danced in the streets in May 1981 when M *Mitterrand was elected the* first Socialist President of France. Yesterday many were *crying at the news of their* hero's death.



M Mitterrand at the height of his persuasive powers before the presidential election of 1988 when he showed himself a master of tactics and recovered from an apparently hopeless position to trounce Jacques Chirac

Leading article, page 17
Obituary, page 19

Visionary pharaoh who built his pyramid

From Ben Macintyre
in Paris

NOWHERE is the grand historical sweep of François Mitterrand's reign more visible than in the skyline of Paris which he tirelessly, some say arrogantly, reshaped as a permanent testament to his 14 years in office.

M Mitterrand spent a staggering Fr30 billion (£4 billion) on his *Grands Travaux*. In his determination to leave a bricks-and-mortar epitaph, he was following a great French tradition *that* stretches from Louis XIV through the Napoleons to de Gaulle. Many projects were inherited, but M Mitterrand pushed them through with single-minded determination — and disdain for cost — that said much about his vision of himself and his understanding of architecture's political power.

ARCHITECTURE

The glass pyramid at the Louvre was an architectural *gambit of enormous* chutzpah. But it has worked, and the pyramid, with its vast network of *public space* beneath, is one of the city's most popular buildings.

Parisians have come to appreciate, if not to love, the Grande Arche, a 30-storey rectangle of concrete designed by Otto von Spreckelsen. More than half the cost was financed by the late Robert Maxwell, who also understood a grand gesture.

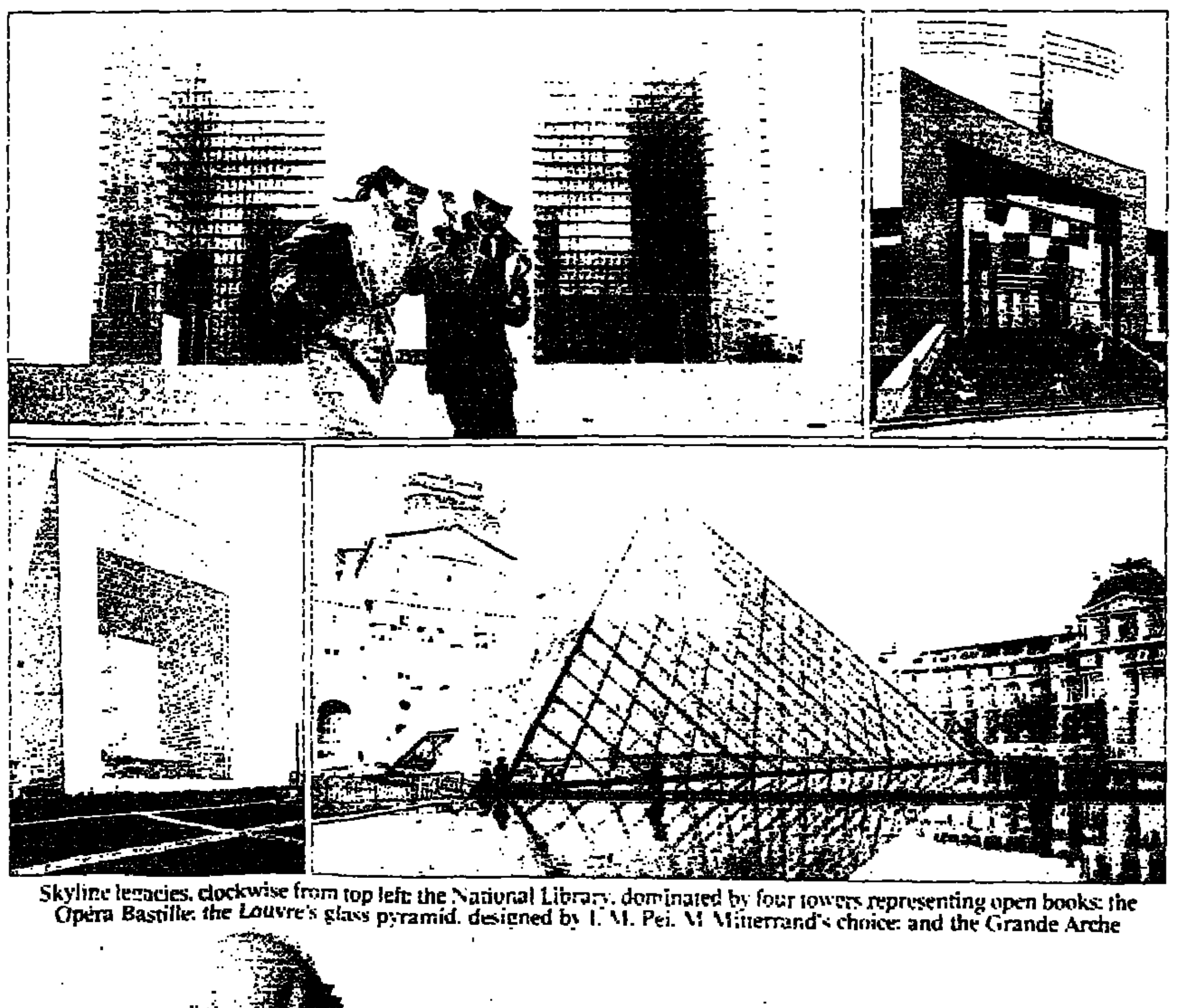
The costly Opéra Bastille has fewer admirers. Construction was accelerated to allow M Mitterrand to preside over its opening before he left office: even he admitted the acoustics are less than ideal.

He regarded the unfinished Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Europe's largest library, as his greatest architectural achievement. It was certainly the most expensive. Costs have exceeded Fr8 billion and in 1993 the Culture Minister toyed with aborting the project. M Mitterrand's response was unequivocal: "You will never have an architectural policy if you make cuts all the time."

He completed the popular Musee d'Orsay's renovation, commissioned Jean Nouvel to build the Arab Institute, and gave an emphasis to maintaining the city's architectural heritage.

The works prompted huge rows, but while some grumbled about design and others about cost, few challenged his right to fashion the capital as he saw fit. "Visitors will come to see the Paris of architecture, the Paris of sculpture, *the Paris of museums,* the Paris of gardens ... a city open to imagination, ideas and youth," he wrote.

But they would also, he ensured, see the Paris of François Mitterrand, the pharaoh who built the pyramid.



Skyline legacies, clockwise from top left: the National Library, dominated by four towers representing open books: the *Opéra Bastille: the Louvre's* glass pyramid, designed by I. M. Pei, M Mitterrand's choice: and the Grande Arche

Vichy activities left dark stain he could not deny

By Ben Macintyre

NOT until the last years of François Mitterrand's life did the spectre of Vichy and his hitherto obscured role in the French collaborationist government cast a long, dark shadow over his career.

In September 1994 Pierre *Péan*, a *journalist*, revealed the extent to which M Mitterrand had been involved in right-wing groups in the 1930s and the enthusiastic part he had played in the Vichy government of Marshal Pétain before joining the Resistance in 1943.

In his teens, M Péan wrote, M Mitterrand had been an enthusiastic rightwinger and supporter of the right-wing Croix de Feu movement, with several friends among the Cagoule, a prewar underground fascist movement.

After his third attempt to escape from a German PoW camp succeeded, he gained a *job under the Vichy govern*ment. M Mitterrand later claimed that his work involved tracing French prisoners of war, but as an intelligence official he also filled out forms on Communists and other "state enemies".

He was not directly involved with the deportation of Jews but many of his friends were, and the precise extent of his knowledge of the Vichy role in Nazi atrocities has never been fully established. He received the Francisque, Vichy's highest honour, from the hands of Marshal Petain. While his career was in the ascendant, M Mitterrand angrily denied his Vichy past. Later he maintained that he could hardly have turned down the Francisque and that his relations with the Vichy regime were a necessary evil, springing from misguided nationalism rather than collaboration. He also implied, less than convincingly, that his work as a Vichy official was a cover for Resistance activities. Those were "turbulent times", he said. "I came out relatively well."

Perhaps more disturbing than his youthful enthusiasm for Petain was his enduring relationship with René Bousquet, the former Vichy chief of police responsible for sending thousands of French Jews to Nazi camps.

WARTIME ROLE

Bousquet was formally charged with crimes against humanity in 1978, but M Mitterrand did not break off their relationship until 1986. Bousquet died from an assassin's bullet before he was brought to trial.

In a television interview in 1994, M Mitterrand admitted intervening to prevent the prosecution of Vichy officials to avoid "reopening the old wounds". As for Bousquet, who as a newspaper executive had helped M Mitterrand's early political career, "it was a pleasure to see him", the former President told M Péan.But he later added that he would be deeply hurt if he thought the French people believed he had known the full extent of Bousquet's record.

Serge Klarsfeld, the president of The Sons and Daughters of Deported French Jews, described M Mitterrand's continued relationship with Bousquet as "morally condemnable". Even Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, a close friend of M Mitterrand, argued that the President should have known better than to socialise for 40 years with such a tainted individual.

M Mitterrand's decision to co-operate with M Péan was seen by some as an honest attempt to set the record straight as his death approached. To others, it was evidence of a guilty conscience.

It may be characteristic of the man that, although he served in the Vichy government, when he changed sides in 1943 and joined the Resistance he did so wholeheartedly and served with remarkable bravery.

The row that erupted over his Vichy past may have surprised M Mitterrand. He did not believe in moral absolutes and insisted life was never a question of black and white but, in his own words, "light grey and dark grey".

If that were so, M Mitterrand's Vichy years were still among the darkest shades of grey.

Family was at side of French leader for his 'serene' last moments

Presidential route: a campaign poster, left, for François Mitterrand in November 1965 offers his fellow countrymen "a young President for a modern France"; in May 1974, his wife Danielle beside him, he makes another attempt for France's highest office. Finally, ambition fulfilled, the President walks through Château Chinon after casting his vote in the first round of the parliamentary elections in March 1993

Kohl mourns 'a good friend'

From Roger Boyes in Bonn

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, yesterday sent an unusually heartfelt message of condolence to Danielle Mitterrand, declaring: "I mourn a good friend."

The German leader was speaking no less than the truth for, despite M Mitterrand's initial reservations about German unity, the late President was emotionally attached to Herr Kohl, to Germany and to a joint vision of Europe.

Herr Kohl has, in fact, been mourning M Mitterrand for more than six months: Franco-German relations under President Chirac have skidded downhill. The Chancellor was quick to point out yesterday that something of M Mitterrand remains: "His political vision of a united Europe will give us strength and spur us on in the future."

GERMANY

The Franco-German consensus built by the two is crumbling, however. It is difficult to talk nowadays of a "special relationship" between Paris and Bonn since the sum of differences and individual frictions have made a nonsense of claims to be a joint European "engine".

M Mitterrand's farewell to Germany was delivered in Berlin at last year's celebrations marking the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Unlike John Major's more stilted speech about a new age of reason, the former French President's rather rambling reminiscences moved Herr Kohl to tears.

The French leader spoke movingly of befriending German soldiers, and the slightly out-of-place speech delivered by an obviously sick and fragile man drew fierce criticism in France. In Germany, however, it was taken at face value: M Mitterrand was registering the fact that the Germans and the French were connected by spilt blood.

How a 'good death' was ensured

From Kate Muir in Paris

FRANÇOIS MITTERRAND was not just preoccupied with dying; he wanted to die well.

Soon after he discovered his prostate cancer was incurable, he took steps to prepare himself. He started to see his death not as a moment to fear, but as the final resounding line in a singular life.

Thus, it is not surprising that his close friends said M Mitterrand was "very serene" in the final moments of his life yesterday morning. He died in his Paris apartment, attended by his personal doctor, his wife Danielle and two sons nearby.

M Mitterrand had been more aware than most of his own mortality, once saying: "Death can transform a human being into what he was called to become."

But in the past two years, he began to read and think a great deal about the subject. He consulted Marie de Hennezel, a psychologist. They met during an official tour of her hospice. Through letters, dinner conversations and retreats to her country home, their friendship developed, as did the complexities of their debate about life and death.

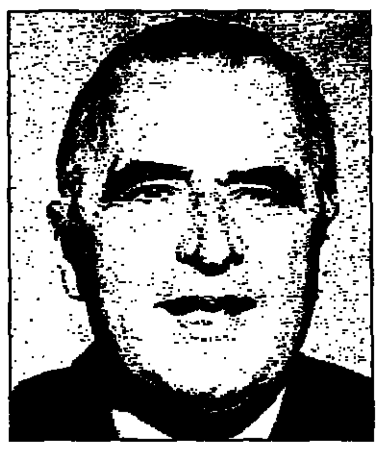
M Mitterrand wrote the foreword last year to Mme de Hennezel's bestseller, *La Mort Intime*. "How to die?" asked the former President. "We live in a world which is frightened by such a question: a world which avoids even asking it."

Over dinner, he once told Mme de Hennezel: "We are each on a plane journey which will end one day by crashing into a mountain. Most people forget that.

"Myself, I think about it every day, but perhaps that is because I have begun to catch a glimpse of the mountain through the plane window."

By talking publicly about his illness, M Mitterrand hoped to take death out of the closet, and pledged to help to end the modern "deficient relationship with death in this hurried existence".

Unlike one of his predecessors at the Elysée Palace, Georges Pompidou, who allowed rumours about his illness to bloat and was said to have flu the day he died of cancer, M Mitterrand was absolutely honest with his country about his health. Mme de Hennezel said that, although M Mitterrand was basically an agnostic, her conversations with him often took a mystical turn, and he did not believe that precluded having religious feelings or a curiosity about an afterlife.



Pompidou: was said to have flu on the day he died of cancer

The psychologist also said that he had more time to think after leaving the presidency: "As people face death, they need to be true to themselves, to drop masks, to stick to the essentials."

M Mitterrand had dropped a number of masks in his last few years, co-operating with a biographer who revealed his role in the Vichy regime, and being photographed publicly with his 20-year-old illegitimate daughter, Mazarine.

Last year the Mitterrands purchased a grave site on Mont Beuvray near Château-Chinon in central France, where M Mitterrand was once mayor. The site is also where France's hero Vercingetorix rallied the Gauls against the Romans. It met some criticism as a grandiose choice.

Mme Mitterrand wanted them to be buried together at Mont Beuvray, but clearly her husband's wishes have prevailed. He has insisted on being buried in his family tomb at Jarnac, near Cognac in western France, in a quiet family funeral with no political oration — similar to the request made by General de Gaulle.

As for an epitaph, M Mitterrand once suggested his should be the same as Willy Brandt, the former German Chancellor: "I did what I could."

The loyal wife who coped with affair

By Kate Muir

DANIELLE MITTERRAND has been fighting her own battle against serious illness. "I ought to have died a year ago," she told *Paris Match* magazine recently, citing her heart problems, temporarily solved by a mechanical valve and a pacemaker.

In the past few months, Mme Mitterrand, 71, has been constantly by the side of her husband of 51 years, standing by while he caught his breath on short walks, and taking him on a family trip for Christmas to Egypt.

After years of political pummelling, she made a request that the outside world should give them "a little peace and serenity" during their last months together. Danielle Gouze married M Mitterrand in 1944 when she was 20, and he had left the Vichy regime to work for the Resistance. They had two sons, Jean-Christophe and Gilbert. From early on, they were a political couple, espousing the same socialist views. Three years after they married, M Mitterrand became the Fourth Republic's youngest minister.

In some ways, M Mitterrand has two widows. The other is his longtime mistress, Anne Pingeot, mother of his illegitimate daughter Mazarine. The relationship was revealed in 1994 in the French press, along with pictures of M Mitterrand and his student daughter leaving a restaurant and walking together.

It was also revealed that Mazarine and her mother — a curator at Musée d'Orsay — had been provided with accommodation and security protection. Mme Mitterrand, when asked about the affair, said simply: "We coped."

Chirac's predecessor left legacy of domestic woes

From Ben Macintyre in Paris

JACQUES CHIRAC was quick to pay tribute to his predecessor yesterday. But the death of François Mitterrand could hardly have come at a worse time for the Gaullist President as he struggles to reassert his authority amid a host of problems, many bequeathed by the Mitterrand years.

M Mitterrand's drive for European monetary union, his backing for the Maastricht treaty and support for expensive social welfare programmes lie at the root of last month's crippling strikes. With militant unions threatening more stoppages in the coming weeks, M Chirac's praise for the "great figure" that preceded him will be tempered by the knowledge that many of his difficulties can be laid at the late President's door.

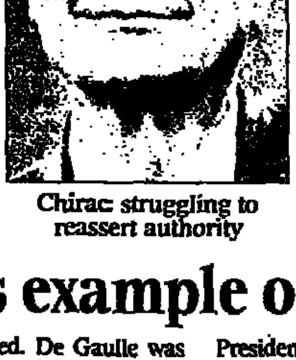
Despite M Mitterrand's 1983 conversion to fiscal orthodoxy and a promise in 1981 to reduce unemployment, the jobless rate almost doubled, while the national debt trebled and France became more wedded to the lavish and indebted social security system.

But it is the Maastricht timetable for monetary union, requiring drastic debt reduction, that may be M Mitterrand's most problematic legacy to his successor. M Mitterrand set France rattling along the road to monetary union without tackling the burgeoning problem of state overspending. M Chirac has now declared deficit reduction to be his "priority of priorities", but even among the ranks of the ruling party there are growing fears that France, her economy slowing, may not be able to meet the Maastricht deadline.

The Government's efforts to overhaul the indebted welfare system and rail network prompted the worst strikes in France for a decade. These ended just before Christmas, but at a huge cost to the French economy.

FRANCE

This week, M Chirac announced that he would visit the French provinces in a bid to recapture some of the enthusiam that brought him to power. But with M Mitterrand's death, these plans are likely to be shelved as newspapers and television screens are given over to remembering *Tonton*, or Uncle, as the former President was known.



Chirac: struggling to reassert authority

In Gaullist circles, however, the reminiscences are likely to be muted by the belief that M Mitterrand left behind a timebomb in the shape of a bloated public debt.

Any hope M Chirac might have had of using the end of the strikes and the start of a new year to revitalise his presidency has been scuppered by the timing of M Mitterrand's death.

After M Chirac's election, in relations between the two were cool. But apart from attacking the President's decision to resume nuclear testing, M Mitterrand avoided overt criticism of his successor.

When Jacques Attali, one of M Mitterrand's top aides, quoted his former boss as saying of M Chirac "he may get elected after me, but he would soon be the laughing stock of the world", the former President diplomatically denied saying any such thing.

M Chirac was elected by promising to end old-style politics, mend France's "social fractures", reduce taxes and cut employment. Instead, faced with the contradictions and impossibilities of implementing the full range of pledges in post-Mitterrand France, M Chirac has opted for deficit reduction. Taxes and unemployment are up and M Chirac's popularity remains at rock bottom.

Village funeral follows example of de Gaulle

From Adam Sage in Paris

IN LIFE, François Mitterrand rarely failed to compare himself with the founder of the Fifth Republic, Charles de Gaulle. In death, the comparison remains striking.

Long before he died on November 9, 1970, de Gaulle told the man who was to become his successor, Georges Pompidou, that he wanted the simplest of funerals. "The men and the women of France and other countries can, if they so wish, pay hommage to my memory by accompanying my body to its last resting place," de Gaulle wrote. "But it is in silence that I wish it to be carried out."

His wish was fulfilled. De Gaulle was buried in his village of Colombey-les-deux-Eglises in east France in the presence of friends and family. The politicians he held in such contempt were absent.

A state ceremony was held at Notre Dame cathedral in the French capital, where Mass was said before an "impressive gathering of heads of state and royalty", according to the historian, Arnaud Teyssier.

M Mitterrand's funeral on Thursday looks certain to follow a similar pattern. He will be buried in the village in which he was born 79 years ago, Jarnac, near Angoulême, in the rural southwest. According to associates of the former President, the religious ceremony will be "intimate", with only family and close friends present. As with de Gaulle's burial 25 years ago, there will be no political speeches. M Mitterrand will be buried in the tomb that holds his parents and maternal grandparents.

The funeral will be in the church, St-Pierre-de-Jarnac, where M Mitterrand was baptised. The short journey to the village ceremony will take the coffin past the house in which he was born.

At the same time in Paris, those wanting to pay their last respects to the country's first Socialist President will be invited to a public meeting. A ceremony will be held at Notre Dame at which world leaders will be present.

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Day 2 of our series on ageing: Problems men face in middle age…

■ What's the truth about men growing older? Below, **Dr Thomas Stuttaford** explodes the myth of the "three-times-a-night" men and explains how to restore sexual vigour, and **Alan Coren** comes clean about the more unnerving aspects of ageing

■ Opposite, we look at the importance of nutrition, and offer a guide to foods that can keep you in the peak of condition

THE SCIENCE of AGELESS AGEING

TOMORROW

■ Use it or lose it — how the brain ages, and making the most of your memory, by psychologist **Ian Robertson**

■ Why a low fat diet is not the best way to beat cholesterol, by **Nigel Hawkes**

■ **Dr Thomas Stuttaford** explains why older women may enjoy an enhanced sex drive

A young man will be as willing for sex as his partner is, but male desire and ability diminish with age: medical science is working on a solution

Men can recapture the passion of youth

MEN AND SEX

Sexual behaviour is determined by hormones secreted by the pituitary gland lying beneath the brain, the testes and ovaries. But the glands wear out, and the days of plenty in youth are replaced by the lean years of middle and old age. Sex provides piquancy to life — it is part of the social dynamic — and men yearn to retain their prowess.

One of the more accurate research surveys on sex was done in the mid-1970s, when a large number of people replied to questions posed on a computer screen rather than asked by a doctor. The survey revealed rather depressing figures. Of marriages which had lasted for more than 20 years, one in four had virtually no active sex life. In the same age group, even when there was a continuing active sex life, one attempt in four at sexual intercourse ended in failure. Perhaps the reassuring news was that the frequency of sexual activity bore no apparent relationship to the happiness of the marriage.

Research published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry* 20 years ago on sexual behaviour in middle age quantified the sexual life of men, and gave the lie to locker-room boasts and saloon-bar chat.

Between the ages of 46 and 56, 62 per cent of men were still capable of sex once a week, and even by the time they reached the age group 66-71, 26 per cent still had intercourse. But only 2 per cent over the age of 66 could manage sex twice a week, and none of those over 56 could manage it more than three times a week.

For men with a proven low testosterone level, a monthly injection of the hormone is now available which will provide about a fortnight's sexual vigour. A better answer would be to wear a patch, like the HRT patch worn by women, so that the man receives a regular low dose of testosterone to maintain normal levels. For the past year or so in America a transdermal delivery system has been available, but the special secretions of the scrotal skin were needed if the hormone was to be absorbed. In addition the unfortunate man had to wear a huge plaster, like a jockstrap; partners apparently found this off-putting. The scientists have now improved the formula and next year men will be able to wear two reasonably discreet patches.

Loss of libido is only one cause of failing potency. More often the spirit is willing, but the mechanism has failed naturally. Often the blood supply to the penis has been obstructed by narrowing of the vessels. In other cases the penis still has a blood supply strong enough to inflate the three cylinders which, when engorged with blood, cause an erection, but unfortunately the valves to the cylinders leak and the erection is not maintained. Operations designed to correct this weakness have proved disappointing.

So long as the valves in the cavernosa are intact, and there is an adequate supply of blood, patients can now have an artificially induced erection with a virtually painless injection of Caverject. The technique, once learnt, is very simple and many of my patients have told me it produces a response the like of which they haven't experienced since their teenage years. Research is now well advanced into producing a pill which will produce the same effect as Caverject without the necessary injection, and other doctors are working on a cream which can be squeezed into the urethra.

Men may not be able to recapture the sexual desire of their youth, but in many cases it should soon be possible to restore sexual function. In the meanwhile, any man who finds himself impotent should first suspect the pills he may be taking for blood pressure, depression, heart failure, insomnia or anxiety — and secondly, consider his alcohol intake. Too much alcohol initially affects only immediate performance, but heavy persistent drinking can produce prolonged impotency.

How I became 'differently young'

THE OLDER MAN'S TALE

It seems like only last year in Marienbad, but it is in fact 30 years. It is 1965, and I am driving to Marienbad from Carlsbad, in a bright red Austin-Healey 3000, and the hood is down because the sun is hot. But the sun is about to go in, and when it does, two things will happen, which, though they are similar to one another, are also so different from one another that they will constitute a watershed in my life. The two things are that the rain will begin to fall, and that the rain will begin to land.

When the first happened, I didn't put the hood up, because I was only a mile or two from Marienbad and didn't want to stop, and I was young and didn't mind a few drops of rain. Until the second thing happened. When the second thing happened, I realised I was no longer young. Because, hitherto, the rain had always fallen on my hair, but, that day, it did not fall on my hair, it fell on my scalp. Clearly, my hair had done some falling of its own, but I had never been aware of it before. I had never felt the patter on my skin. I was 27, and it was borne in upon me, for the first time, that I was ageing. For the rest of my life, raindrops would be falling on my head.

Now let us deconstruct that anecdote, so that we may elicit a little more about the ageing process. The two film references were to *Last Year in Marienbad* and *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*.

You will all have seen the latter, but apart from film nerds, only those of my age will have seen the former. It was very big, then. But were I to allude to it in conversation with the unaged, they would not know what I was talking about.

That is one of the most unnerving aspects of ageing: those younger than you (who are, of course, increasing moment by moment, while those older than you are decreasing at about the same rate) understand less and less of what you are saying — especially if your conversation is, like mine, freely planted with other men's flowers, for the very good reason that, as Wodehouse observed, "If it were not for quotations, conversation between gentlemen would consist of an endless succession of 'What-ho!'s."

For those flowers age, too: withered by time, they grow less and less recognisable to more and more people, and this is true not merely of literary gobbets, but of all references to ideas, people, buildings, plays, cars, food, music, what you will: among all the unsettling aspects of age, few are more unsettling than, in the course of what you feel to be an interesting natter with some young person, noticing their eyes suddenly glaze over at your mention of Herbert Morrison, or UDI, or scarlet fever, or *The Grove Family*, or slide-rules, or Dickie Valentine, or *HMS Amethyst*, or Monk & Glass custard, or Austin-Healeys.

I do not drive a two-seater now. I wish I could boast that I have outgrown them, but that would not be the truth. The truth is that I have outaged them. Ageing is about being irritable partly because the corking new MGF has come on the market and is clearly not for you, but mainly because the motoring press cackles its head off upon discovering that the median age of those who have put their names down for them is 57. They find this funny.

Alan Coren when he had more hair on his head and chin

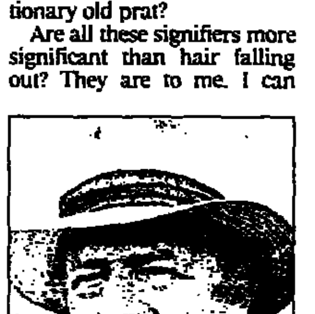
I see I used "nerd" a bit back. Is it still current? Or am I whatever a nerd now is for using it? For the horrible obverse to using old words the young do not understand is using what you think are new words so that the young will understand, only to discover, as their eyes glaze over again, that it has become an old new word, and makes you appear even older than if you had used a really old word in the first place.

Especially if you have used it in the course of expressing an opinion. It is extremely unwise, if you wish neither to feel nor to appear old, to express any opinion at all to anyone younger than you are. You may believe that your judgments are the fruits of experience and wisdom, but the young will believe that they are the fruits of being nearly dead.

Unfortunately, it is probably best not even to hold any opinions, since the real problem for the more mature is that even if you tell yourself that you don't give a tuppenny damn what the young think, there will be times of suddenly nagging doubt when you will find yourself wondering whether they might not be right to think it.

How sure can you be that the literary novel is dead, that Rocky Marciano would have flattened Mike Tyson in round two, that no decent building has been put up since 1966 or no good popular music recorded since 1978, that it is a mistake to decriminalise consenting crackpots who wish to batter one another senseless with live eels in the privacy of their own love-nests? Might there not be just an outside chance that these actually *are* the purblind views of a reactionary old prat?

Are all these signifiers more significant than hair falling out? They are to me. I can handle the physical stuff. The fashion for political correctness (or whatever it is called, now that it may be called that only ironically) has helped me here. It has enfranchised me to think of myself not as old but as differently young.



Today Alan Coren keeps his head dry under a hat

Considering myself, therefore, not to be physically deteriorating but merely to be continuing to mature, I refuse to make any concessions to corporeal change. I do not, like Bobby Charlton or Robert Robinson, part my remaining hair just above the hip, sweep it across my scalp and fix it there with Bostik. I cry "Baldness be my friend!" and shave the dome. Nor would I dream of rugging it or having it surgically reafforested with pubic tufts, for little, surely, can be more ageing than struggling to appear unaged, and seeing pity (or worse) well up in eyes that are trying not to peer at your new fake head.

As for all the anatomical clobber depending from the dome, it is kept in reasonable nick by exercise designed to maximise self-esteem: I can still bench-press the weights I could lift at 20, but would never dream of timing myself over 200 yards, and not simply because this would now be an offence under EU regulations, rendering me liable to a fine of up to £3,000.

I put that in to show that I am not afraid of making jokes about metrication. Saying you do not understand decimal innovations is ageing, but taking the mickey out of them is bullish. Sorry, taking the piss out of them: nearly gave the game away there.

As for physical activities involving others, the maturing athlete must exercise extreme care not to exercise with extreme care. There is, for example, a crucial moment in his tennis career when a player has to choose between continuing to play as he has always played, ie, with all the energy he can muster, and opting instead for precision, cunning, and gamesmanship. The latter is a big mistake: not only is hurling yourself about the court and going for every shot healthier both for body and for *amour-propre*, it is the best excuse there is for losing to those younger than you.

You can say you are having an off-day, probably because of a heavy night, nudge-wink-chortle. At the very worst, your opponent will conclude that you must have been a terrific player, once; he will not know that you have never hit a successful running cross-court backhand in your entire life. If, however, you just amble up and down the baseline waiting to embarrass him with a cissy lob, he will conclude only that you are a clapped-out fart who was probably never any good anyway.

Sex? I sense you want me to talk about sex. I do not intend to do this on my own behalf, but if the differently young among you are looking for a tip, exactly the same tactics apply as to tennis.

Let us therefore put our clothes back on. How do we look? Not too bad, with any luck, provided we have had the good sense not to reach for a Michelob baseball cap, or a Junior Gaultier waistcoat, or a Perfecto zippered leather blouson, or Fila trainers, or anything else you have to ring up your kids about to find out what the in-your-face young are wearing, or were ten minutes ago when in-your-face was still an *au courant* fashion statement, but have slipped instead into a well-made three-piece whistle. Ageless, that. Even young tongues hang out, these days, for a Savile Row suit.

Or so they tell me. They may, of course, just be trying to humour an old man. It's hard to tell, if you're not one.

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VILLAGE SUCCESS STORY
Small business 30

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook
TUESDAY JANUARY 9 1996

Consumer spending surge 'could trigger 8% base rates'

By Ross Tieman
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A SURGE in consumer spending during the second half of this year could trigger base rates as high as 8 per cent in 1997, the latest year in which the Government must hold an election, according to the Ernst & Young ITEM Club.

In a new forecast using the Treasury's economic model, the ITEM Club says that tax cuts and cash windfalls from building society sales, maturing Tessa savings accounts, and the National Grid rebate for electricity customers could cause consumer spending to grow at an annualised rate of 3.5 per cent during the second half. That would delight retailers and rescue the economy from its present slowdown. But a consumer spending boom could quickly rekindle inflation, the forecasters say. Wage growth would accelerate to unsustainable levels. "This would demand much higher interest rates, possibly as high as 8 per cent, in order to arrest the inflation threat this would pose."

Overall, the ITEM forecasters predict economic growth of 2.5 per cent this year, down from an expected 2.8 per cent in 1995 and 3.9 per cent in 1994. Consumer spending growth, however, is expected to rise from a mere 1.8 per cent in 1995 to 2.5 per cent in 1996.

The predictions, from one of Britain's most respected forecasting groups, are tempered by a warning that declining demand in Britain's main export markets, combined with weakness in the domestic economy, could lead to a second doomsday scenario for the Government.

Manufacturers have already embarked on an extensive round of destocking, the forecasters note. "By cutting employment and investment, UK companies could lead to growth as weak as 1.5 per cent this year. Under this alternative scenario, unemployment would begin rising towards 2.5 million by mid 1997."

ITEM's central forecast, however, is broadly optimistic on the prospects for inflation. Made cautious by continued feelings of insecurity, consumers are expected to increase their savings during the first half. "Such a favourable outlook for inflation will pave the way for further interest rate cuts during the first half of 1996, which could take base rates to 5.75 per cent by the end of spring."

But because of the looming election, ministerial forecasts of a 1 per cent fall in government spending are unlikely to be fulfilled, the ITEM economists believe. "Much depends upon the likelihood of the Government adhering to its 1995 Budget expenditure plans," the forecasters say. "Under ITEM assumptions, public spending is expected to overshoot the 1995 Budget plans by 1.5 per cent in real terms, by rising 0.5 per cent." That would leave government finances in trouble by the time of the November Budget. Ministers might have to choose between further spending cuts or tax increases. "Should the next Budget fall before the general election, this would provide an enormous political obstacle for the present Government," the economists say.

Paul Droop, chief economist of the ITEM Club, said firms should note the impending shift growth mix. Exporters would experience more modest demand from European markets, while those oriented to the domestic economy would gain from strengthening consumer spending.

Growth eases, page 24

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3720.6	(+16.1)
Yield	3.86%	
FT-SE A All share	1821.21	(+6.82)
Nikkei	20563.59	(-105.45)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5201.30	(+19.87)*
S&P Composite	617.43	(+0.72)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¾%*	(5 7/16%)
Long Bond	111 7/16*	(111 5/16)
Yield	6.04%*	(6.05%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 1/16%	(6 7/16%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	110¼	(110 7/32)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5508*	(1.5525)
London:		
$	1.5507	(1.5525)
DM	2.2331	(2.2342)
FFr	7.6540	(7.6400)
SFr	1.8039	(1.8011)
Yen	163.45	(162.97)
£ Index	83.4	(83.5)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4400*	(1.4395)
FFr	4.9365*	(4.9265)
SFr	1.1630*	(1.1615)
Yen	105.35*	(105.35)
$ Index	94.7	(94.4)

Tokyo close Yen 105.65

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Mar)	$18.55	($18.45)

GOLD

London close	$396.60	($396.25)

* denotes midday trading price

Court blow for life firms

Investors win right to sue for mis-selling

By Robert Miller

PENSION companies face an additional compensation bill for mis-selling personal pensions running into tens of millions of pounds after a judge yesterday gave nurses and public sector workers the green light to sue through the courts.

The ruling is expected to push the personal pension industry's estimated costs and compensation bill to well over £4 billion.

Judge Raymond Jack, QC, sitting at the Bristol Mercantile Court, dismissed applications for a stay of proceedings brought by five of the UK's largest life offices and ordered the Prudential, Hill Samuel, TSB, GAN Life and Irish Life to pay the costs of the case.

The five pension companies, which were also refused leave to appeal, wanted cases of alleged personal pensions mis-selling to be handled by the special review system set up by the Securities and Investments Board, the chief City watchdog, and not by the courts.

Ringrose Wharton, the law firm acting for members of the Royal College of Nursing and the GMB general union, which has issued 50 writs claiming compensation ranging from £5,000 to over £100,000, argued that many investors did not want to be bound by the SIB review's timetable.

Bill Day, pensions officer at the GMB, welcomed yesterday's landmark court ruling. He said that the potential compensation bill for just 50 writs issued on behalf of GMB members could top £1 million and hundreds more cases are in the pipeline. He added: "The Government, which was so active in promoting personal pensions in the late 1980s, should now spend as much money as they did then on telling hundreds of thousands of possibly confused investors about their rights to take legal action if they want to.

"The Government should also insist that the regulators force pension companies to offer investors the right to free independent advice to ensure that any compensation settlement they are offered is fair."

Richard Bernhard, director of legal services at the Royal College of Nursing, said: "The judgment seems to have confirmed our view that independent advice should be offered to our members where it is found that they have been let down by bad advice and that the costs of putting that situation right, including the advice, should be paid for by the pension provider.

"We want our members restored to the NHS Pension Scheme, which is a very, very good one. It offers members inflation-proofed pensions with employer contributions, life cover and is linked to final salaries and based on the number of years worked."

The Prudential, Britain's largest insurer, and the TSB, now part of the Lloyds Bank group, said that they were "disappointed" at the court ruling and would consider the judgment in some detail before deciding whether to seek leave to take the judge's ruling to the Court of Appeal.

The Prudential said: "Our concern remains that, if a large number of investors decide to issue proceedings against pension providers, then those pension providers' resources, which should be directed towards carrying out the SIB review, will have to be diverted to deal with the litigation. Accordingly we shall keep this aspect under review in case the scale of litigation exceeds that contemplated by the judge."

Philip Ryley of Ringrose Wharton said: "In our view life companies are inviting court actions if they continue to refuse to settle reasonable costs of an independent investigation in each case. It is the investor who may have been badly advised by a life company and it is the investor who should be totally satisfied that his or her pension arrangements have been fully redressed."

City watchdogs said that the court ruling should not affect the SIB's personal pension mis-selling review.

Price cutting lifts shop sales

By Patricia Tehan

FURTHER evidence of a pick up in confidence on the high street comes today with figures showing higher sales — but sales achieved at the cost of widespread price cutting.

The British Retail Consortium's retail sales monitor for December shows an annual increase in like-for-like value of retail sales of 4.3 per cent. This compares with a 3.2 per cent annual increase in November and a 2.4 per cent rise in October.

The figures also show an increase in the underlying growth trend, with average sales growth of 3.3 per cent in the past three months, compared with 3 per cent in the period from September to November.

The food and drink sector performed well and sales of personal computers were also strong last month.

Retailers reported successful post-Christmas sales after a mixed start because of weather problems. The furniture and carpets sector suffered most from the lack of movement in housing and the do-it-yourself sector was flat.

Andrew Higginson, chairman of the consortium's economic affairs committee, said: "We now need to see this improvement maintained into the new year and for any recovery to be seen more widely across the retail sectors."

Credit growth eases, page 24

CHRIS HARRIS

Clara Freeman hopes her promotion will be an encouragement to other women

Freeman joins M&S board

By Sarah Bagnall

MARKS & SPENCER, Britain's leading retailer, has appointed its first woman to the board as an executive director. Clara Freeman, 43, joins the 17-strong executive board and is responsible for personnel.

Mrs Freeman, who has been head of personnel for the past year, will be M&S's youngest executive director. She joined the company as a graduate trainee after reading history at Somerville, Oxford.

During her 21 years with the retailer, Mrs Freeman has worked in a variety of areas, including buying. M&S has more than 60,000 employees and about 75 per cent of its customers are women.

Recent statistics showed that women make up nearly half the UK workforce, but only 3 per cent were directors. Women tend to appear in areas such as personnel and marketing, rather than research and development and production.

Mrs Freeman said she was honoured by the elevation, which she hoped would encourage other women. "I hope that I got the job because I'm the best person for it, not because I'm a woman," she said.

Her husband is a co-founder of Argent Group, a property company that floated in 1994, and they have two young children.

Defensive move

THE rapid consolidation of the United States defence industry took a leap forward when Lockheed Martin, the industry leader, announced the $9.1 billion purchase of Loral's defence business, whose activities include the manufacture of Patriot anti-missile missiles. **Page 25**

Holiday war

Analysts yesterday predicted a bitter battle among tour operators for the number three position in the British holiday market this summer after Inspirations, a relative newcomer to the market, surprised the City yesterday with better than expected results for the year to September 30. **Page 24**

Granada 'must raise bid 15%'

By Eric Reguly

GRANADA will have to raise its offer for Forte today by about 15 per cent, to between 375p and 380p a share, to give it a fair chance to overcome Forte's stong defence package, City analysts said.

But some analysts did not expect Granada to go that high and thought it would offer as little as 360p and argue that it could do a better job of managing Forte's broad collection of hotels and restaurants.

There is even a slim possibility that Granada will effectively abandon the chase by leaving its bid unchanged.

Granada gave no hints about what board decisions were made yesterday. The revised offer will be announced early today.

Goldman Sachs, the US investment firm, expects Granada to raise its offer to between 360p and 375p, while Strauss Turnbull Securities expects 375p. Kleinwort Benson last week estimated Forte's break-up value at 380p, which suggests Granada will have to pitch its offer at a price higher than that if it hopes to tip the balance in its favour.

Most analysts said that Granada would have to increase the cash component of its bid. Its shares and cash bid was valued at 328p when the offer was launched in November. The all-cash alternative is worth 321.7p. Granada shares, which went ex-dividend yesterday, fell 4p to 643p, while Forte lost 1p, to 344p.

Separately, Forte issued a writ against Henry Staunton, Granada's finance director, over remarks attributed to him in yesterday's edition of *The Times*. He was quoted as saying that Forte's defence document "was designed to mislead". Forte demanded an apology and "substantial" damages. Granada refused an apology.

Seeboard takeover is cleared

By Christine Buckley

THE takeover of Seeboard, the southeast electricity company, by Central and South West Corporation, the US utility, has been cleared by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade.

Mr Lang, who last year surprised the City with the referral of bids from National Power and PowerGen, the generators, for regional electricity companies, passed the £1.6 billion agreed bid after the electricity regulator and the Director-General of Fair Trading said they had no objections.

After Mr Lang's approval, City attention may again focus on other US utilities with declared interests in UK electricity businesses. Houston Industries, which had teamed up with Central and South West for an abortive move on Norweb, is known to be still interested.

Exchange rushes out reform plan

By Patrica Tehan

THE Stock Exchange will open the debate over how to reform the way that shares are traded with a consultative paper on Friday.

The City's leading investment banks have made it clear to the Exchange that a system of choices over trading methods would be unworkable.

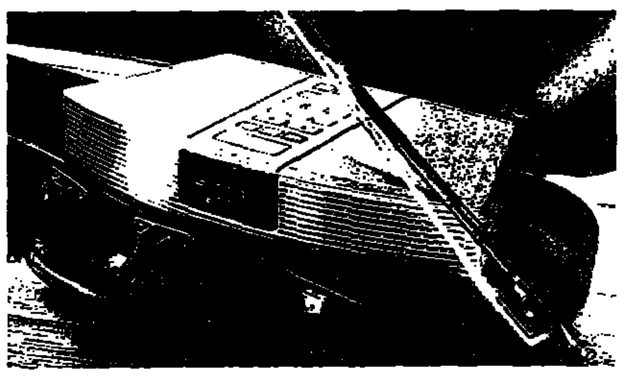
In the document the Exchange will outline alternatives for share trading and give market participants several weeks to submit responses. The document was planned for next week but, after the furore over the sacking of Michael Lawrence as chief executive, it is being rushed out this week.

The consultation paper is the result of a decision taken at an Exchange board meeting in November to move towards a system of full electronic trading and order matching.

In the past the City's market-makers have objected to such a system, arguing that the current quote-driven system ensures liquidity in the market and that this would disappear if an order-matching system were introduced.

At the November meeting the board saw a paper, prepared for Mr Lawrence, that showed the current system of market-making in the top 100 stocks was unprofitable. It showed that 17 per cent of the market value was already traded through an order book and that over 30 per cent of the volume of trading was already automated through order-routing systems.

Last night most market-makers said that objections to an order-matching system had been dropped. Their concerns were over the timing of its introduction. They also wanted to ensure that rules of trading using the new system would be in place before it came into operation.



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Mortgage lending shows signs of revival in housing market

Consumer credit growth eases

By Patricia Tehan
Banking Correspondent

GROWTH in consumer credit weakened in November, rising by a net £613 million, compared with £830 million in October, according to official figures.

The figues are not expected to have any implications for interest rates, as they show how consumers are financing their spending, and not how much they are spending.

The rise was below City forecasts for an increase of between £650 million and £700 million. Andrew Milligan, economist at New Japan Securities, said that it should be seen in the context of the surge in October.

He said the longer-term trend "remains intact: in the six months to November, the average rise was about £660 million, compared with an increae of £600 million in the previous six-month period".

Mr Milligan said that credit growth was running at about 1 per cent a month, or between 13 and 14 per cent a year.

Jonathan Loynes, economist at HSBC Greenwell, said: "The figures tell us little about the strength of consumer activity, only how they are choosing to finance it," and added that there were certainly no implications for interest rates.

Adam Cole, economist at James Capel, said mortgage lending figures were more encouraging. Net mortgage lending was £1.23 billion, 30 per cent higher than October's figure. He said that although mortgage borrowing "is still below levels recorded at this time last year, shorter-term measures leave little doubt that the trend in borrowing is now upwards."

Adrian Coles, director-general of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, said that there were now more tangible reasons for recovery to strengthen than there had been for five years. He said: "Continued reductions in unemployment, the effect of tax cuts and low mortgage interest rates are beginning to lead to some tentative renewal of confidence."

The level of mortgage approvals was £4.84 billion, down on October's £4.88 billion. Excluding the October figure, the CML said, "approvals were higher in November than they had been since November 1994".

Michael Saunders, economist at Salomon Brothers, said that the half-point cut mortgage rates would come through in the coming months.

Net gilt sales were £245 million November, compared with £3.8 billion in October, because of the lack of a gilt auction in November.

Final M4 data for November showed the broad money measure up an adjusted 1 per cent, up 9.3 per cent on the year, with sterling lending at £2.6 billion.

M0 growth was unrevised at 0.7 per cent in November.

Holiday war forecast on surge at Inspirations

By Marianne Curphey

ANALYSTS predicted a bitter battle among tour operators for the number three position in the UK holiday market this summer after Inspirations, a relative newcomer, surprised the City with better than expected year-end results.

Despite echoing the general industry complaint that last summer had been the toughest "for 25 years", Inspirations unveiled pre-tax profit up 71 per cent to £7.7 million for the year to September 30.

Last month, Airtours, the UK's second-largest tour operator, revealed a 22 per cent fall in profits while First Choice, the third-largest, reported annual profits fell from £16.3 million to £1.3 million.

While Inspirations said it hoped to end this summer with a market share of 3.2 per cent compared with 2.1 per cent last year, analysts suggested it was underplaying its success and that its market share for 1995 had been closer to 5 per cent, since it carried 477,000 passengers out of a total of about 10 million.

Inspirations, run by Vic Fatah, has a retail agreement with AT Mays, the travel agent, owns Goldcrest, the aviation broker, and Caledonian Airways and runs two package holiday brands — Inspirations and Style. Its shares rose 11p to 119p.

Jim Harris, chairman, said the company had not been hit as hard as its rivals because tour operating accounted for a smaller percentage of overall business. He said 1996 forward bookings were down 8 per cent, against 26 per cent in the rest of the industry.

Turnover rose 70 per cent, to £356 million, and earnings per share were 18.36p (12.04p). There is a final dividend of 2.8p, making a total of 3.5p net, a 25 per cent rise on the previous year.

☐ Airtours is poised to buy Simon Spies Holdings, which has a 40 per cent share of the Danish holiday market, according to City sources.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.17	2.01
Austria Sch	16.73	15.23
Belgium Fr	48.64	44.64
Canada $	2.213	2.053
Cyprus Cyp£	0.746	0.691
Denmark Kr	9.26	8.46
Finland Mkk	7.33	6.88
France Fr	8.07	7.42
Germany Dm	2.39	2.18
Greece Dr	388.00	363.00
Hong Kong $	12.63	11.63
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.2600	4.6100
Italy Lira	2559.00	2404.00
Japan Yen	177.90	161.90
Malta	0.592	0.537
Netherlds Gld	2.663	2.433
New Zealand $	2.50	2.28
Norway Kr	10.44	9.64
Portugal Esc	243.50	225.00
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.38
Spain Pta	195.00	182.00
Sweden Kr	10.89	10.09
Switzerland Fr	1.92	1.76
Turkey Lira	refer	87856.0
USA $	1.648	1.518

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday

MANNI MASON

TREATT, the essential oils and aromatic chemicals company, yesterday reported pre-tax profits of £3.5 million (£2 million) in the year to September 30 and said orders were at record levels. The company, whose managing director is Hugo Bovill, above, is lifting the total dividend to 5.6p (4.6p), payable April 12, with a 3.8p final. Treatt is to seek a full listing for its shares after the closure of the Unlisted Securities Market. Shares fell 18p, to 329p.

Shake-out at Nynex to cost 310 jobs

By Eric Reguly

NYNEX CABLECOMMS, the second largest cable company, said a restructuring aimed at reducing costs will result in 310 redundancies, equivalent to about 11 per cent of its staff.

Nynex denied that lower than expected sales are behind the redundancies which, when completed next month, will save £6 million to £7 million a year in overhead expenses.

It said a Coopers & Lybrand study determined that its costs were higher than some of its main competitors, such as TeleWest, and should come down.

Staff will be cut from virtually every department, including sales, customer service, public relations and management. About half of the losses will be involuntary. A restructuring charge of less than £1 million will be taken because most of the employees have been with the four-year-old company for a short time only.

Nynex will replace its regional, door-to-door sales force with a national, telephone-based sales organisation in an attempt to boost sales. Its cable-television and cable-telephony penetration rates, at 18.9 per cent and 23.8 per cent respectively, are below the national average.

Nynex, 67 per cent owned by Nynex Corporation of New York, a regional phone company, was floated last year at 137p. The shares fell 1½p to 105½p yesterday, setting a new 52-week low.

Share prices of the floated cable companies have all been disappointing because penetration rates have been lower than expected.

Pennington, page 25

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

McBride shares fall on profit warning

MCBRIDE, the detergents maker, lost a fifth of its stock market valuation yesterday after a profit warning sent its shares down 37p to a low of 148p. The company was floated in July, at 188p, and the shares reached a high of 215p in September. Yesterday's fall in the share price wiped nearly £65 million off the company's market value, leaving it at £259 million.

McBride blamed reduced margins and higher than expected production costs for the interim profits warning. The company said first-half sales were at record levels, but the growth failed to feed through as increased profits because of a squeeze on margins. The company had expected a recovery in margins in the first quarter which failed to materialise as a result of a later than expected slowdown in raw material price increases. McBride was not able to recover the increased costs by lifting prices. The company also suffered up to £4.5 million of abnormal production costs and loss of margins because of the launch of products.

Pennington, page 25

Xyratex sells division

XYRATEX, the UK computer products and services company that was formerly part of IBM, has sold its flexible interconnect division to ADFlex Solutions of America for $56 million, it was announced yesterday. The division employs 180 people, including 50 engineers, and had revenues of about $72 million in 1995. Its customers include IBM, Seagate, Quantum amd Hewlett-Packard. The division was set up in 1985 and began producing chip-on-flex (COF) assemblies for IBM hard-disk drives three years later. It now has about 40 per cent of the world market for wire-bond COF assemblies.

Limit stays ahead

LONDON Insurance Market Investment Trust (Limit), a corporate name at Lloyd's of London, yesterday confirmed its position as the largest single investor in the insurance market, with 6.5 per cent of the total underwriting capacity for 1996. Corporate capital companies together with the traditional individual names are providing £9.8 billion worth of capacity to the market this year. Limit said that it had lifted its total underwriting capacity nearly 7 per cent, to £635 million, while Hiscox Select Insurance revealed a 4 per cent advance, to £58.8 million.

Tempus, page 26

Freshfields tops table

FRESHFIELDS has ousted Slaughter and May from the top of the league table of lawyers working for financial advisers or companies on UK public takeovers, according to *Acquisitions Monthly*. In 1995, Freshfields acted on 31 deals worth £32.2 billion, against 30 mandates totalling £29.7 billion for Slaughter and May, which had topped the table in each of the two previous years. Freshfields had a joint role on behalf of TSB Group, taken over by Lloyds Bank, and was sole adviser to Southern Electric, which received a £2.8 billion bid by National Power.

Barr hit by move costs

AG BARR, the maker of soft drinks including Iron-Bru, Tizer and Orangina, blamed a 31 per cent drop in full-year profits to £4.6 million on a combination of the cost of centralising its Scottish production facilities together with higher raw material costs. The fall in pre-tax profits from £6.7 million to £4.6 million in the year to October 28 was principally due to the £1.4 million exceptional charges relating to the move to a single production site at Cumbernauld. The final dividend rises to 6.2p (5.8p) making a total of 8.2p (7.8p). The dividend, due April 8, is being paid from earnings of 15.3p a share (23.8p).

Kvaerner wins contract

KVAERNER, the engineering group that owns the Govan shipyard and whose takeover bid for Amec, the construction company, failed last year, has won an offshore contract worth 1.2 billion Norwegian crowns (£120 million) from Statoil, the Norwegian state oil company. The contract is for the Gullfaks satellite development in the North Sea. Work includes modifications to the Gullfaks A platform to tie in its three satellite fields as well as producing and installing new platform modules weighing up to 2,000 tonnes. The huge Gullfaks field pumped nearly 470,000 barrels a day in November.

Sunleigh loss continues

SUNLEIGH, the consumer products company, has given warning that it will again incur a loss in the year to December 31, 1995, after the wide-ranging reorganisation of its Maclaren subsidiary, which makes prams and pushchairs. One-off charges will include provisions against the write-down of assets, including unoccupied property for which no prospective buyers have emerged. Directors expect Maclaren to return to profit in 1996. Despite the poor results, the company said it remained within its banking facilities. In 1994, Sunleigh incurred pre-tax losses of £646,000.

Oil quotas exceeded

CRUDE oil production by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) bounced back in December to 25.49 million barrels per day (bpd). This was up 220,000 bpd from 25.27 million bpd in November, in excess of the official 24.52 million bpd ceiling, a Reuter survey showed yesterday. Calls at Opec's November talks aimed at curtailing individual quota-busting by some members appear to have gone unheeded. Venezuela remained Opec's biggest transgressor, with a steady 2.73 million bpd, 370,000 bpd over quota. Iran and Nigeria also registered higher volumes.

Courtaulds sale

COURTAULDS, the British chemicals company, has sold its cellulose packaging film business, Courtaulds Films Cellophane, to UCB, of Belgium, for an undisclosed sum. The business is based in Bridgwater, Somerset, and employs 490 people. It has a capacity of 20,000 tonnes and a net asset value of £11.7 million. In the year to March 31, 1995, it had sales of £50 million. After the acquisition, UCB's turnover in packaging films will rise to £180 million.

Ex-Fisons chief gets post at LLP

By Alasdair Murray

STUART WALLIS, the former chief executive of Fisons, the pharmaceutical company, is to become the new non-executive chairman of LLP, the company that publishes *Lloyd's List*, the world's oldest newspaper.

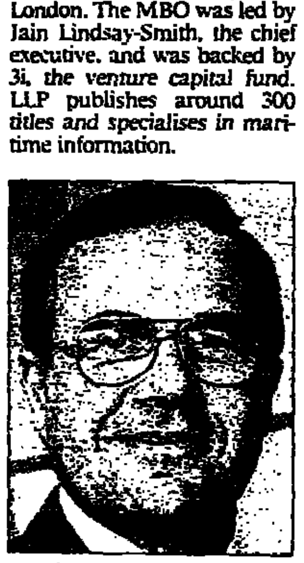
Mr Wallis will work about three days a month for LLP and will take a stake in the company, although he would not reveal the size of his investment. Mr Wallis said: "I have always had a healthy regard for LLP. It offers good opportunities for expansion and hopefully in a relatively short period of time we will seek a flotation."

Mr Wallis added that he had received a flood of other job offers and was considering a number of other posts.

He said: "I am having a number of chats, but I want to become involved in projects I want to do, rather than simply things I am asked to do."

Mr Wallis left Fisons with a £2.5 million pay-off at the end of December after the £1.83 billion takeover by Rhone-Poulenc Rocher, the pharmaceutical company.

LLP was bought out by its management last month for £82.5 million from Lloyd's of London. The MBO was led by Iain Lindsay-Smith, the chief executive, and was backed by 3i, the venture capital fund. LLP publishes around 300 titles and specialises in maritime information.



Wallis: taking a stake

Minister urges better environmental standards

Greener vision for black stuff

By Christine Buckley

THE Government yesterday pressed the coal industry for tougher environmental standards while offering little reassurance about future protection.

Richard Page, Minister for Energy and Small Business, indicated that coal would be left to its own devices after the expiry of present supply deals to the generators amid full competition in power supply, which will bring more gas-fired energy on stream. He signalled heavy demands on the coal industry for a better environmental performance.

Mr Page told the Coal Industry Society: "Bigger than the competition from imports or even the competition from gas is the challenge of rising expectations on the environment." He emphasised: "People do not accept the environmental impact of industrial activities as they once did."

RJB, the country's largest coal producer which has been lobbying a variety of key energy figures over the future for coal, insisted that the funding of clean coal technology has to be shared by the power industry rather than falling on the shoulders of coal producers. Richard Budge, chief executive of the company which last year took over most of British Coal's collieries and open-cast mines, said the generators and Government had to take some of the cost of making coal cleaner.

A split is also clear between coal producers and the Government over the framework under which coal should operate in the future. RJB has been in talks with Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, Labour's energy team, and the Department of Trade and Industry.

It hopes to persuade them that there should be a mixed fuel policy under which generation needs are covered by a determined mix of gas, coal and nuclear power. It argues that the dash for gas is short-term and gas-fired generators are often more costly than coal-fuelled ones.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF ARIZONA SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Plaintiff vs MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM, KEVIN P CHAPMAN, ARTHUR TAYLOR AND ROBERT CRISP Defendants [illegible]

The Insolvency Rules 1986
Rule 4.182(A)
DATECH GROUP PLC
In Members' Voluntary Liquidation

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Miss J B Stephenson, Licensed Insolvency Practitioner, of Neville Russell, 246 Bishopsgate London EC2M 4PB, was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company following an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company on 21st December 1995.

The Liquidator gives notice, pursuant to Rule 4.182(A) of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the Company must send details in writing of any claim against the Company, to the Liquidator at the above address by 9 February 1996. The Liquidator also gives notice under the provision of Rule 4.182(A)(6), that she intends to make a distribution to creditors who have submitted claims by 9 February 1996, otherwise a distribution will be made without regard to the claim of any person in respect of a debt not already proved.

No further public advertisement of invitation to prove debts will be given.

Dated this 21st December 1995
J B Stephenson - Liquidator

Note: This notice is purely formal. All known creditors have been, or will be, paid in full

Spencer Coatings Ltd
Froghall Terrace
Aberdeen AB2 3JN
(the Company)
Spencer Coatings Limited Retirement Benefits Scheme [illegible]

To Bernard Dawson
Formerly of
5 Windmill Terrace
St Thomas, Swansea
TAKE NOTICE that a Statutory Demand has been issued by [illegible]

ALL BRANDS FOOD PROFESSIONALS LIMITED [illegible]

[illegible]

TRUSTEE ACTS

[illegible]

PUBLIC NOTICES

Public Announcement
Peter R Buckie
Jewellery Consultant, Valuer & Loss Assessor

Wishes to announce that his business partnership with Gloria McClure Buckie trading as Buckies Jewellers, Silversmiths & Valuers at 31 Trinity Street, Cambridge, CB2 1TB was effectively dissolved on Monday 18 December 1995. Accordingly, as of this date and thereafter Peter R Buckie ceases to have any interest whatsoever in the aforementioned Retail Jewellery business and cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any liabilities incurred by the business of Buckies Trading from that address Peter R Buckie is now operating totally independently at

SIDNEY HOUSE, SUSSEX STREET,
CAMBRIDGE CB1 1PA
TEL & FAX 01223 32 22 22

☐ Actuaries weigh up disclosure choices ☐ A silly row over alcoholic fizz ☐ Nynex dials a wrong number

Pensioning off the fat cats

☐ FOR years, finance directors have been fooling investors by publishing financial data in so raw and esoteric a form that the accounts might as well have been printed in *Minoan Linear B* for all they contributed to open corporate governance.

Company balance sheets will probably have to continue in their current form for a while, alas. But the accountants have been working to produce a more transparent view of just what directors receive in the way of pension entitlements, to be taken into the *Stock Exchange's listing* requirements in due course.

At present, that chunk of the accounts dealing with what are archaically called directors' emoluments is clear enough on salary, often rather less clear on share options and clear as mud on *pensions*.

Under the Greenbury code, it would have to be quite transparent on the first two. The argument has been over the third, because there are any number of ways of expressing mathematically the value of any pension, only *some* of which are comprehensible to the lay or even the professional investor.

The Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries yesterday produced a *consultation* document setting out a range of five possible methods of calculation and a tendency towards one. This is likely to be a *preference* shared by most institutional investors and abhorred by fat-cat *directors*.

Such actuarial arguments are not normally a matter for rioting in the streets. But pension calculations do make up a substantial portion of those huge payoffs and pay increases that we will hopefully be seeing less of in future. *Cedric Brown's* salary increase last year brought him a £1 million boost to his individual pension, as duly set out in the British Gas accounts.

The actuaries tend towards a so-called transfer value method, which would show the actual *amount the director's rights to* benefits had risen by over the past year. This is transparent enough, and it has the added virtue of being utterly objective, understandable by all and providing an easy basis for comparison between companies.

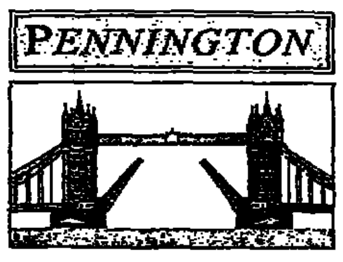
It does, however, throw up an awful lot of fat cats, because salary increases towards the end of a director's career provide an *enormous upwards kicker on the* value of those rights. Directors naturally prefer a smoothed approach, whereby that increase is phased in over each of the remaining years of their careers.

Tough. Investors are entitled to the clearest exposition possible of what they pay their employees, the directors. It is up to the latter to explain any mitigating *circumstances to their* shareholders' satisfaction.

Entering into the spirit

☐ ONE could understand the *fuss, if they were bottling the* stuff and selling it as Lucozade. But the largely artificial furore over alcoholic lemonade and its ilk has more to do with a drinks industry closing ranks against outsiders than any legitimate health concerns.

First, last night's *Panorama*. It



dealt only tangentially with the subject of not-so-soft soft drinks *and the young, but was more* concerned to give us another Awful Warning about how much we all drink.

Second, the forthcoming Portman Group swipe at alcoholic lemonade. The Portman Group reckons to be the con*science of the drinks industry*, and deeply troubled it is in this case. Of the seven largest drinks producers that make up the group, three are involved in alcoholic soft drinks and four are not, yet. The group is divided on the issue — odd, that. The favoured option is dropping the term "alcoholic lemonade" in exchange for something less confusing to the young.

It is hard to imagine just what could be less confusing. What you see is what you get — lemonade with alcohol in it. If the bottles are confusing the tiny tots in their wanderings around the kitchen, however, that is a matter for the parents. The average teenager is perfectly aware of alcohol and its function — if alcoholic lemonade is being *used as a foothold into the adult* world of real drinking, then it is merely supplanting the traditional role of cider.

What we have here is a classic case of "Wish I'd thought of that — *now let's try to stop it*". Drinks groups have spent millions *developing bland concoctions* aimed squarely at young people. The last serious stab was the range of madly competing ciders that did for that particular market. Alcoholic lemonade was first introduced to Britain by a then tiny Australian drinks outfit, and only Bass *so far here has* managed to get much more than a foot on the bandwagon.

Two things are certain: this *year will see a lot more not-so-*soft drinks running the gamut of fruit flavours from the big producers, and the craze will shortly thereafter die the death.

Blurred vision

☐ THE claim that job losses at *Nynex are to do with high costs* rather than low demand looks like a distinction without a difference. Nynex's costs are too high because of an alarming shortfall between the confidence shown at the time of last year's flotation and the experience on *the nation's doorsteps*.

That experience was shared by the rest of the cable TV sector. The larger TeleWest announced a similar cost-cutting exercise at its key London South franchise in November. In cable, as in any other industry, low demand means costs have to fall. In the US, for various historical reasons, take-up of homes where *cable* is offered has always run at about 65 per cent. The availability of good terrestrial channels and satellite meant those levels could never be reached in the UK, while the coming of digital TV will offer customers yet another option.

On flotation, Nynex *and the* rest talked in terms of a 40 per cent take-up, an expectation then lowered to 30 per cent. The actual figure is running at 20 per cent, with Nynex at the bottom of the pack. What has saved the cable operators has been higher demand for telephony services, and the defection of 50,000 customers a month from BT. This is not *guaranteed to continue for ever*.

Margin of error

☐ FEW expect this to be a record year for new issues, and McBride, one of a rash of venture capital cash-ins in 1995, *has just shown* why. When the company floated in July, much was made of the resilience of margins in own-label goods, in spite of market scepticism. Much has been heard since of falling margins, culminating in yesterday's warning and another 20 per cent off the share price.

Lockheed boosts defence role with $9.1bn Loral deal

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE rapid consolidation of the United States defence industry took a leap forward *when Lockheed Martin, the* industry leader, announced the $9.1 billion purchase of Loral's defence business, whose activities include the *manufacture of Patriot anti*-missile missiles.

At the same time, Lockheed will invest $344 million to acquire a stake in Loral's other *main businesses, which will* be packaged in a new company, Loral Space and Communications.

The deals, which require *regulatory approvals in the* United States and Europe, will add to pressure for consolidation of Europe's fragmented defence industry. Although *market forces* have already led to a wide restructuring of Britain's arms industry, incompatible government policies have largely frustrated industrialists' ambitions to deepen cross-border collaboration in a drive to match the economies of scale enjoyed by their American rivals.

Lockheed Martin became *the world's biggest defence* company last year after the merger of Lockheed and Martin Marietta. Adding Loral's activities will lift annual sales *to $30 billion. The combined* business will have an order backlog of $47 billion.

The deals will unite two of the most successful companies *in the defence electronics in*dustry, offering skills ranging from systems integration to command, control and communications. Loral already *embraces the defence activities* of the IBM and Unisys computer groups, acquired in takeovers.

It will be a leading supplier to the Ministry of Defence. Lockheed manufactures the C-130 transport plane used by the Royal Air Force, while Loral has been involved in systems for Britain's nuclear submarines and helicopters. Loral is also teamed with British Aerospace in the £1.5 billion competition to upgrade the RAF's Nimrod reconnais*sance planes, while Lockheed* is bidding its P3 Orion for the contract.

The merger comes hard on the heels of the announcement last week *that* Northrop Grumman, a diversified defence group formed by merger in 1994, is to acquire the Westinghouse defence busi*nesses, focused on electronic* systems, for $3.6 billion.

Loral's shareholders will receive $38 a share in cash, plus shares in the newly formed *Loral Space and Communica*tions Corporation. That company, will own 31 per cent of the Nasdaq-quoted Globalstar and 33 per cent of Space Systems/Loral, a satellite manufacturer with annual sales of $1 billion.

In effect, Loral will be reduced to a satellite and communications business, with $700 million of cash to develop those interests.

Redland issues warning

SHARES in Redland, the building materials company, dropped 7p to 381p after it warned of a small drop in profits from last year's £388 million (Alasdair Murray writes).

Redland blamed weak markets in Europe and the UK for disappointing sales. *UK sales for aggregates* fell by between 7 and 13 per cent, and brick volumes declined by 14 per cent and concrete roof volumes by 4 per cent. However, Redland maintained higher prices in most UK operations. The usual year-end shutdown of brick production was extended to cut stock.

In the important German market, a decline in housing starts reduced sales of concrete roof tiles by 10 per cent, but margins remained firm.

Redland also announced buying Colony Materials, a US aggregrates company, for $11 million. Redland's full-year results will be released at the end of March.

Tempus, page 26

Ellis expands overseas

ANOTHER independent US chemicals distributor yesterday went into the hands of Ellis & Everard, the Bradford distributor that has steadily been expanding its overseas operations (Christine Buckley writes).

Ellis bought George Mann for £4.1 million in a deal that also meant the assumption of £4 million in debt. The UK group, which has been refocusing its activities over the past two years, also bought Surphos Chemicals from Albright & Wilson for £1.4 million. It is funding the moves with a placing of 4.18 million shares, which should raise £9.6 million. The acquisitions were announced on the back of half-year results that topped expectations.

Pre-tax profits at Ellis were 24 per cent ahead of the same period last year, at £13 million, on sales that were up 20 per cent to £293 million. The interim dividend, payable on March 8, rises 11 per cent to 3p.

Tempus, page 26

Steve Burton has escalated sales to the Far East

Trinity wins orders in Far East

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

TRINITY Holdings, maker of Dennis fire engines, Dart buses and refuse lorries, has won a *host of Far East orders* worth more than £30 million.

Joint contracts have been secured by Dennis Specialist Vehicles and Duple (Metsec) *to supply* three *Hong Kong* operators with double-deck buses worth £20 million.

Metsec has also won orders for a further 200 bus body kits to SBS, Singapore's leading operator. Other orders include fire-fighting vehicles for Hong Kong, refuse vehicles for Macau and and airport tugs for China.

Steve Burton, chief executive, said: "We are continuing to make significant in-roads into overseas markets and these orders demonstrate the group's competitiveness in areas which are also targets for *European, Japanese and* US manufacturers."

Tempus, page 26

Healthy Christmas pleases the market

Tonic for Lloyd's Chemists

BY SARAH BAGNALL

LLOYD'S CHEMISTS, Britain's second biggest pharmacy chain, yesterday reported a healthy advance in sales over the Christmas period, helped by improved *fortunes from* each of its core operations.

After a slow start to the year, the retailer saw sales rise by 2.4 per cent in the second quarter, a period covering the three months to December 31. The advance was achieved in spite of a string of *drugstore* closures. Overall sales for the first half rose 2.1 per cent, to £562 million.

The City was pleased with the figures and *in the stock* market the shares rose 10p, to 289p.

Allen Lloyd, chairman, said: "It is satisfactory to have achieved good growth in the second quarter, off-setting a relatively slow start to the *year, and resulting* in the first-half sales figures showing a positive advance."

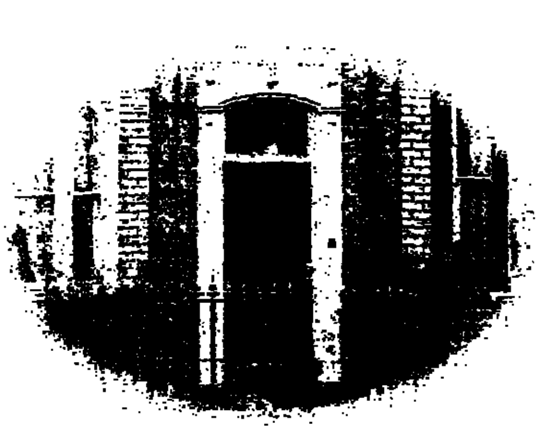
The biggest growth in underlying sales was at Holland & Barrett, the group's healthcare chain.

Lloyds said the chain lifted *like-for-like* sales 10.3 per cent in the second quarter of the year, compared with 3.4 per cent in the first quarter. Sales at Holland & Barrett in the first quarter were affected by the hot weather, but the benefits of increased marketing and *advertising* spend began to pay off in the second quarter.

After a like-for-like sales advance of less than one per cent in the first quarter, the chemist chain lifted like-for-like sales by nearly six per cent in the second quarter. *Trading* over Christmas was in line with expectations, the company said.

The black spot remains the drugstore division, which is being restructured. Underlying sales fell 3.5 per cent in the second quarter, compared with a fall of 8.5 per cent in the first quarter.

WORLD BUSINESS CLASS



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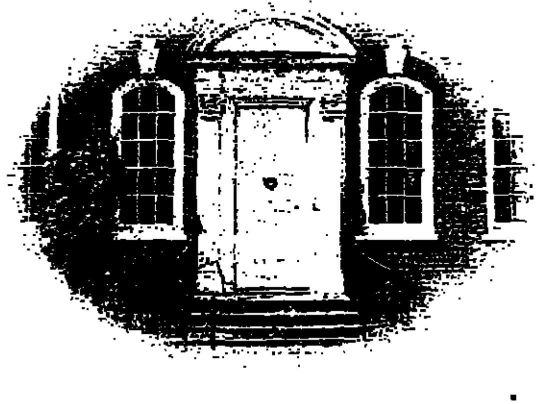

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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

French make Allders a candidate for takeover

ALLDERS, the department store and duty-free retailer, found itself a takeover candidate as it emerged that LVMH, the French luxury goods group, had snapped up a 2 per cent stake.

The shares responded to the news with a leap of 14p at 184p, after earlier in the morning going ex its 4.6p dividend. Allders declined to comment last night, but brokers say the move could be the prelude to a full bid. By the close of business, more than 1.5 million Allders shares had traded in a market where dealers will normally only make a price in 10,000 shares at a time.

LVMH, which includes luxury names like Moët and Chandon and Christian Dior, confirmed the purchase of the stake after announcing a number of board changes. LVMH continues to hang onto a 20 per cent cross-holding in Guinness.

The rest of the equity market made a confident start to the week. At one stage it came within a whisker of its all-time high, touching 3,722.8. But the delayed start to trading on Wall Street because of the adverse weather conditions saw London lose some momentum. In thin trading, the FT-SE 100 index finished 16.1 up at 3,720.6, with 575 million shares changing hands.

Forte shaded 1p to 344p as it waited to see if Granada would increase its £3.2 billion offer ahead of the expiry of today's deadline. The Granada board met yesterday to decide whether to top the current offer of 328p a share. City speculators are hoping that Granada will raise the offer to between 340p and 380p a share after a spirited defence by Britain's biggest hotelier. **Granada** finished 3p easier at 643p with the market worried that an increased offer will put its finances under further pressure.

Lloyds Chemists responded to a favourable trading statement with a rise of 10p to 289p. The group said it had enjoyed sales growth in all its core businesses. On Thursday, it is the turn of **Boots**, up 14p to 599p, with the market looking for positive news on trading during the busy Christmas period. **Storehouse**, unchanged at 332p, and **Next**, 4p better at 450p, are also expected to be upbeat about recent trading when they issue trading statements this week. **Seeboard** hardened 5p to 532p after the Government gave the go-ahead for the £1.6 billion bid by Central and South West. C&SW received the necessary approval after giving the Government certain assurances. C&SW already owns almost 80 per cent of the shares.

Sir Neil Shaw, chairman of Tate & Lyle, which fell 10p

J Sainsbury moved quickly to dismiss claims it is on the verge of issuing a profits warning. Instead the group is expected to make an announcement tomorrow which may be positive. A report by Verdict, the retail consultant, said that, despite fierce competition, the big supermarket chains continued to achieve better returns than many of their foreign rivals. **Argyll**, which owns Safeway, rose 6p to 342p, **Asda** 1p to 112½p, and **Tesco** 2p to 307p. Oil shares benefited from the blizzards sweeping the US which should result in higher fuel consumption. **Shell** rose 11½p to 877½p, **BP** 10p to 549½p and **Enterprise Oil** 10p to 394p. But the best gain was seen in **Burmah**, up 24p at 962p. Brokers say several market-makers were cleared out of stock on Friday and are now scrambling to cover exposed postions. **Tate & Lyle** was a depressed market, falling 10p to 469p after Credit Lyonnais Laing cut its profit forecast for the current year from £331 million to £308 million. Despite the downgrading, Laing remains bullish of Tate.

However, other brokers are more cautious. The group has begun re-negotiating the price of its high fructose corn syrup.

Brokers say the process still has some way to go but say it could hurt profits.

News of a profits shortfall left **Redland**, the building products group, nursing a fall of 7p at 381p and also had a knock-on effect on other companies in the sector. The group gave warning that there would be a small shortfall in profits during 1995 compared with the previous year. Brokers had been expecting a rise in pre-tax profits of about £5 million to £378 million and have already begun adjusting their forecasts. The news left **RMC Group** 14p lower at 952p, and **Blue Circle Industries** 8p at 339p.

Newcomer McBride plunged 36p to 149p after giving warning that first-half profits would be hit by higher than expected production costs and narrower margins. The group, which came to market at 188p in July last year, said record sales growth had been offset by launch costs of up to £4.5 million and squeezed margins. A profits warning left **Sunleigh**, the leisure group, ¼p easier at 2¾p. The group says that profits in 1995 have declined significantly compared with the previous year. The group blames the cost of restructuring and says that margins have come under increased pressure.

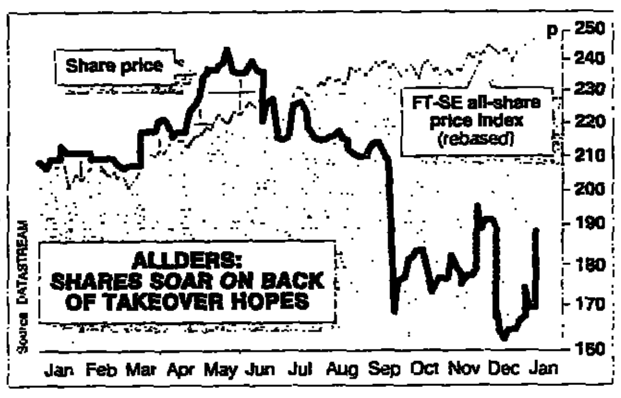
Lonrho climbed 8p to 192½p ahead of full-year figures on Thursday expected to include details of the proposed demerger of its mining interests. Brokers are forecasting a rise in pre-tax profits from £112 million to about £147 million.

☐ **GILT-EDGED**: Sentiment remained subdued with prices trading in narrow limits for much of the day. The situation was not helped by the snow storms in the US which delayed the start of trading on Wall Street.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt closed just a tick better at £108¼ with just 24,000 contracts completed. In the cash market, falls were recorded at the shorter end where Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £$^{1}/_{16}$ easier at £104$^{13}/_{32}$, while, at the longer end, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 firmed three ticks to £101$^{29}/_{32}$.

☐ **NEW YORK**: Industrials were strong at midday, lifted by gains in Boeing and energy shares and a move into cyclical issues. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 19.87 at 5,201.30.

Investors have decided that not only is a dog man's best friend, but it may also make him a profit. Pet City, the pet superstore group, which joined AIM just before Christmas at 300p a share has leapt ahead. It closed last night up 27p at 437p. The group plans to expand its 35 stores to more than 300 over eight years.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	5201.30 (+19.87)
S&P Composite	617.43 (+0.72)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	20563.58 (-105.45)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	10466.67 (-63.23)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	503.61 (+6.04)

Sydney:

AO	2274.9 (+14.2)

Frankfurt:

DAX	2323.48 (-8.40)

Singapore:

Straits	2385.87 (+20.34)

Brussels:

General	8644.40 (+44.03)

Paris:

CAC-40	1916.56 (-1.16)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	744.80 (+5.30)

London:

FT 30	2750.5 (+13.3)
FT 100	3720.6 (+16.1)
FT-SE Mid 250	4080.1 (+8.9)
FT-SE-A 350	1848.5 (+7.1)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1522.41 (-3.41)
FT A All-Share	1821.21 (+6.82)
FT Non Financials	1924.92 (+9.07)
FT Fixed Interest	114.28 (-0.06)
FT Govt Secs	95.23 (-0.10)
Bargains	33443
SEAQ Volume	575.4m
USM (Datastrm)	188.30 (+0.42)
US$	1.5495 (-0.0035)
German Mark	2.2324 (-0.0002)
Exchange Index	83.4 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.1842
£:SDR	1.0483
RPI	149.8 Nov (3.1%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	149.8 Nov (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Cash Con Intl	27	+ 2
Century Inns	117	...
Com de Part Fin	510	...
Cox Insurance	113	...
Crown Products	53	...
Dmatek	75	...
Finsbury Tech (100)	106	...
Gearhouse Gp (200)	200	...
Jupiter Split Cap	87	...
Jupiter Split Inc	99½	...
Jupiter Split Units	#59	...
Manx & O'seas	23	...
National Grid (204)	198	...
Northern Petroleum	75	...
Nthn Petlm	8	...
Polymasc Pharms	142	- 2
Revelation Pfcc	100	...
Rushmere Wynne	3½	...
Unicorn Intl (133)	143	+ 3
Victrex	260	...
Viewinn	135	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Ransomes n/p (48)	5½	...
SWP Group n/p (2½)	1½	...
Sutcliffe Spk n/p (25)	3	...
Westbury n/p (150)	21	+ 1

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Fenchurch Group	157p (+15p)
Life Sciences	106p (+10p)
Ramco Energy	427p (+30p)
Micro Focus	588p (+35p)
Weir	229p (+13p)
Stoves	285p (+13p)
Ellis & Everard	267p (+12p)
Church	395p (+17p)
Time Products	271p (+10p)
Lloyds Chem	289p (+10p)
TT Group	299½p (+10p)

FALLS:

McBride	148p (-37p)
Shield Diag	135p (-17p)
Acorn Comp	212p (-25p)
Frost Group	173p (-19p)
Whatman	385p (-40p)
Treatt	329p (-18p)
Hardy Hanson	319p (-12p)

Closing Prices Page 28

TEMPUS

Bleak house

THE City that punished the Redland building materials company so heavily last March after a dividend cut seems to have undergone a change of heart although yesterday's profit warning put a halt to the share rally from 326p in early November to 388p last week.

Even so, a fall of 7p yesterday was a little generous after a warning that suggested profits at £365 million would be about £20 million below expectations. Market sentiment, however, is that Redland's performance cannot get much worse. But that is a long way from believing that things are going to get much better and 1996 is already shaping up to be another difficult year for Redland. Conditions in Germany look unlikely to improve in the near future and the outlook for the UK market is still depressed. Redland has performed well in preserving margins so far but the strain, if volumes continue to fall, may force Redland to rethink its strategy.

The recovery in America has been better than expected but is still patchy. The upturn in France may finally arrive this year but remains vulnerable to political problems.

Redland also continues to face deep-seated structural difficulties that it is no nearer to solving. Profits from Braas in Germany are unsatisfactorily derived from a dividend and there is no sign that the Braas family, which holds the minority stake, is willing to sell. Continuing weakness in UK operations leaves a hefty ACT bill.

Redland is not especially expensive on a forward p/e ratio of 11.7 per cent and still yields more than 5.5 per cent but it is a long way from full profitability and for the moment the bounce has gone out of the shares.

Trinity

TRINITY HOLDINGS has been one of the success stories of the new issues market. Shares in the maker of Dennis fire engines, Dart buses and refuse lorries, have risen threefold since flotation in October 1992.

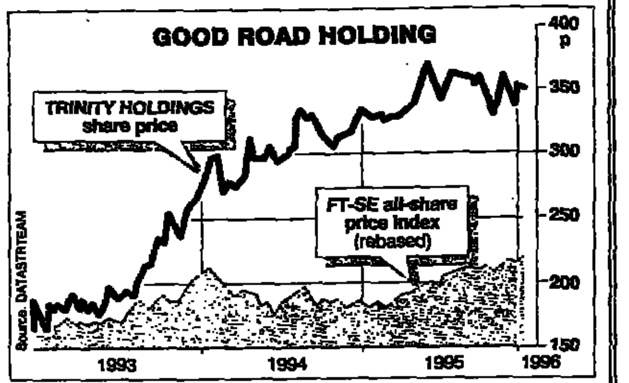
Having achieved prominence in its traditional markets over the past few years, Trinity has expanded overseas and into related markets as part of its strategy to maintain 20 per cent growth. Its recipe for success has been based on an ability to provide what firemen and dustmen need.

The latest £30 million Far East contract will push Trinity's exports to record levels, while a foothold in China provides further eastern promise.

Trinity should reap rewards from steady cash flow and strong export growth, fuelled by European recovery and a better than expected performance from its joint venture in Malaysia.

Last month's £14 million acquisition of the aircraft and cargo handling division of ML Holdings offers scope for profit enhancement and provides better purchasing power. Analysts at Albert E Sharp, the stockbroker, forecast pre-tax profits of £16 million in the current year to January 31, giving earnings of 20.7p.

On a price-earnings ratio of nearly 17, the shares are at a premium, which is justified if Trinity delivers growth. The market will be unforgiving if it makes any mistakes.



Lloyd's

THE Lloyd's corporate capital companies have had a rather sickly infancy. Since their birth in 1993, the shares have universally failed to sparkle, reflecting their parent's struggle to fight off seemingly endless problems.

Share prices have suffered as a result of concerns over the insurance market's future, sparked by fears over solvency, debt collection and litigation. Investors bought in when some problems were already apparent. Shareholders were made aware that under Lloyd's three-year accounting system they would see no underwriting returns until summer 1997. However, the expected returns are now less than originally forecast because the companies are being required to contribute to Lloyd's restructuring.

Increased competition has eroded the market's profitability since its peak in 1993. The last two years are expected to be profitable but lower insurance rates across several categories of business make 1996 less attractive.

The sector comprises companies of varying sizes and differing underwriting and investment approaches. Some are high-cost operators, others have low gearings to the good years of 1994 and a few — such as LIMIT — are large enough to benefit from operating a diversified underwriting book. In the main, the shares reflect the individual advantages and disadvantages and given the background the shares look fairly priced.

Ellis & Everard

IF Ellis & Everard were a shopper it would be the type envied at this time of the year: one that pops into a shop awash with promotional gimmicks but carefully selects an item that will fit well with an existing wardrobe and last for years.

The chemicals distributor has acquired a reputation for sensible acquisitions and yesterday bought a couple more off the peg.

Ellis as a distributor has another ace up its sleeve. It is less exposed to the sharp sweeps in fortune dictated by the chemicals cycle than the companies with which it works. Indeed it can take some benefit from the cycle when businesses look to use suppliers more in order to guard themselves against over-stocking in price swings.

Volumes for Ellis showed a slight tilt downwards towards the end of the year and if the fears of a more fundamental slump in chemicals prove justified it will find its prospects further curbed. But overall the company is developing organically, improving underlying volumes modestly, and by acquisition with a wide geographical strategy. It may not achieve outstanding performance but investors can expect growth from solid foundations.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	894-892	May	1000-990
May	916-914	Jul	unq
Jul	935-934	Sep	
Sep	952-951	Dec	
Dec	970-969		
Mar	959-957	Volume:	4461

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	1860-1850	Sep	1520-1515
Mar	1710-1705	Nov	1510-1500
May	1599-1596	Jan	1510-1480
Jul	1545-1540	Volume:	1224

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	310.0-09.5
Spot: 297.5		Dec	304.0-03.5
Mar	364.5-63.8	Mar	302.9-01.6
May	347.5-46.7	May	302.3-00.5
Aug	335.4-34.5	Volume:	2508

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on January 5

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	101.53	119.53	120.85
(+/-)	-20.23	-4.06	-0.20
Eng/Wales	101.53	119.65	120.95
(+/-)	-20.23	-4.13	+0.53
(%)	+132.5	+22.0	+31.0
Scotland	unq	119.50	120.87
(+/-)		-3.52	-5.19
(%)		-4.0	..

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	19.60	+0.15
Brent 15 day (Feb)	19.30	+0.25
Brent 15 day (Mar)	18.55	+0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	Closed	
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	-	

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas 15	B: 179 (+2)	O: 181 (+2)
Gasoil EEC	186 (+1)	188 (n/c)
Non EEC 1H Jan	183 (+3)	185 (+3)
Non EEC 1H Feb	181 (+3)	184 (+3)
3.5 Fuel Oil	108 (+2)	110 (+3)
Naphtha	179 (+4)	181 (+3)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Jan	182.25-82.50	Apr	165.25-65.50
Feb	177.50-77.75	May	161.50-61.75
Mar	171.50-71.75		Vol: 25119

BRENT (6.00pm)

Feb	19.22-19.23	May	17.69-17.70
Mar	18.57-18.58	Jun	17.39-17.40
Apr	18.07-18.08		Vol: 19584

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	121.35	Jan	114.25
Mar	123.40	Mar	115.60
May	125.40	May	117.00
Jul	127.50	Sep	109.25
Sep	113.40	Nov	110.50
Volume:	567	Volume:	42

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	200.0
Apr	230.0	225.5
May	unq	243.5
	Volume:	100

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Feb ... 109.75-110.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jan 96	1585	1565	1564
Feb 96	1555	1540	1553
Mar 96	1545	1535	1545
Apr 96	1535	1520	1520
Vol: 198 lots		Open Interest:	3922

Index 1579 -4

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day) — Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2740.0-2742.0	2557.0-2558.0	2010475
Lead ($/tonne)	694.00-694.50	686.00-687.00	182225
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1010.5-1011.0	1034.0-1034.5	329500
Tin ($/tonne)	6285.0-6295.0	6300.0-6305.0	13765
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1629.0-1630.0	1637.0-1639.0	2191575
Nickel ($/tonne)	7720.0-7730.0	7840.0-7845.0	55860

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
Alld Dom	550	10½	30	38½	5½	17	25½
(*555)	600	0	11	17½	45	47½	57
Argyll	330	12	25½	31	1½	10½	17
(*342)	360	0½	11½	16½	19½	26	33½
ASDA	110	4	9	11½	1½	[illegible]	4
(*112)	120	0½	4½	7½	8	11½	13½
Boots	550	49½	62½	70	0	4½	13
(*599)	600	8	27½	37	5	20½	31
Br Airways	460	39	51	61	0	5	11½
(*496)	500	6	24½	36	7	18½	27
BP	500	49½	55½	63½	0	3½	7½
(*549)	550	6	21	32	6	19½	25½
Br Steel	160	6	13½	19½	1	6	11
(*165)	180	0	4½	7½	14½	17½	23½
C & W	460	8	25½	37	½	18½	27½
(*465)	500	0	12½	20½	40	43	51
CU	600	24½	41½	49	2	22	27½
(*621)	650	1½	16	26	29	52	56½
ICI	800	27½	45½	60	2	25	32½
(*826)	850	2½	19½	35½	25½	52½	59½
Kingfshr	550	10½	31	39	5½	23½	33
(*555)	600	0	11	19½	45	50½	63½
Land Sec	600	41	54½	61½	0	4	12
(*640)	650	2½	20½	29½	12	30	35½
M & S	420	14½	28	34½	6	9½	14½
(*432)	460	0½	9	14½	27	30½	36½
Nat West	650	12	29	42½	7	32	40½
(*653)	700	0½	11	23	49½	67	77
Sainsbury	360	26	36	40½	0	4½	10
(*385)	390	3½	17	22½	7	14	22½
Shell	850	27½	45	57½	2	16½	22½
(*875)	900	1	16½	27	29½	43	48
Smkl Bch	700	14	30½	56	3	31½	20½
(*717)	750	1	16½	32	36½	44	56
Storehse	330	7	19½	27	4	12	17½
(*332)	360	0	7	12½	27½	30½	34½
Trafalgar	25	4	7½	9	0½	3	4
(*28)	30	1	5	7	2	5½	7
Unilever	1250	16½	48	60	8	36	48
(*1357)	1400	1	27½	39	43	66½	74½
Zeneca	1250	15½	54½	82	15½	49	61½
(*1251)	1300	2½	32	60	49½	79½	94

	Series	Calls Feb	Calls May	Calls Aug	Puts Feb	Puts May	Puts Aug
Grnd Met	420	38½	50	59½	3½	7	13½
(*457)	460	11½	25½	35½	16½	22½	29½
Ladbroke	140	19½	22½	27	3	9	11
(*154)	160	7½	12½	18	11½	19	21½
Utd Bisc	260	16	21	25½	5½	13	16½
(*267)	280	6	12	16½	16½	25	27½

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
BAA	460	24½	39½	45½	0	6½	12½
(*483)	500	1	16	23	17	24	30½
Thames W	500	47	60	67½	0	5	15½
(*546)	550	6½	28	36	9½	21½	37½

	Series	Calls Feb	Calls May	Calls Aug	Puts Feb	Puts May	Puts Aug
BAT Ind	550	22½	31	40	12½	27½	37
(*563)	600	5	12½	21	45½	61	68½
BTR	330	11½	17	23	5½	15	17
(*337)	360	1½	6½	11½	26½	35½	39
Br Aero	900	31	50	69½	22½	38½	49
(*901)	950	11½	29½	47	54	68	77½
Br Telcm	330	22	30½	37	2	5½	11½
(*347)	360	5	13½	20	15	19	26
Cadbury	550	22½	32	45	15½	30½	36
(*553)	600	5½	15½	26	46½	53	67
Guinness	460	37½	44	51	2	10	14
(*492)	500	11½	20½	29	15	24	32½
GEC	360	14	23	29½	3½	12½	20
(*364)	390	2	9½	15½	27½	30	36
Hanson	191	11½	—	—	2½	—	—
(*201)	211	1	—	—	14½	—	—
LASMO	190	5½	13½	19	5½	7½	11
(*191)	200	2	5½	10½	19½	22	24½
Lucas	160	17	21	24½	1	4	5½
(*175)	190	4½	6½	13½	8½	12½	14
Pilkngtn	191	12	16	22	4½	7	10½
(*197)	210	3½	9	13	15	17	21
Prudential	420	23	31	43	9	19	26
(*434)	460	7	13	25	30	42	49
Redland	360	27	36	40	3½	15	16½
(*381)	390	9½	19	24½	19½	28½	32
R-Royce	180	17	20½	24½	7½	6	5
(*194)	200	5	9	14½	6½	15	17
Tesco	300	13	20	25½	6	12½	15
(*306)	330	2½	7	12½	25	31	37
Vodafone	200	20½	27	31	2½	6	7
(*216)	220	9½	15½	21	10	14	17½
Williams	330	13½	19½	22½	5	12½	15
(*336)	360	2	6½	10½	24½	32	34

FT-SE INDEX (*3719)

	3600	3650	3700	3750	3800	3850
Calls						
Jan	140½	91	46	19½	2½	1
Feb	156½	118	79	50½	29	15
Mar	177	125½	103½	74	41½	35
Apr	182½	149½	119	91	67½	46
Jun	216½		150	—	96½	—
Puts						
Jan	3	4	14½	37	80	130
Feb	12	20	35	55	84	121
Mar	25½	38	55	77½	106	141½
Apr	47	62½	81	105½	129½	162
Jun	72	—	107½	—	152½	—

	Series	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Puts Mar	Puts Jun	Puts Sep
Abby Nat	650	29	40	50	31	40	44
(*650)	700	10½	21½	30½	60	73	77
Amstrad	160	17	24	29	4	12	12
(*168)	200	3	16	21½	19	22½	22½
Barclays	750	38	50	60½	25	34	42
(*764)	800	14½	25½	34	57½	59	71
Blue Circ	330	21	26	32	11	20	22
(*339)	360	4½	14	19	25	30	40
Br Gas	240	22	22½	30	4	10½	11½
(*258)	260	11½	16½	19½	11½	20	21½
Dixons	420	25	37	43	13½	21	25
(*428)	460	11	20	27	39	44	48½
Forte	330	25	26	29	4	10	12
(*343)	360	7	10	13	22½	22	29
Tarmac	100	11½	15	17	2	7	7
(*108)	110	5	9	12	5	7	7
Hillsdwn	160	15	17	14½	2	9	7½
(*171)	180	4½	7	9½	12	14½	21
Lonrho	180	19½	22½	23	4	6	9½
(*194)	200	5	11½	13½	14	6	16½
Scot Pwr	100	5	6½	8	4	6	[illegible]
(*107)	110	1	3	4	12	13	12½
Thrn Emi	1500	46	104	224	12	22	7½
(*1613)	1600	77	20	141½	70½	56	7½
Tomkins	280	18	26	24½	7½	12	15
(*291)	300	6	16	22	15½	22	26
Lloyds TSB	322	13½	16½	—	2½	21	—
(*322)	352	3	9½	—	27½	41	—

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
Glaxo Well	850	46	64	75½	0½	15	22
(*894)	900	3½	34	55	8	42	47
HSBC	1000	22	66	82	2	36½	51
(*1025)	1050	6½	47½	62	27½	72	78
Reuter	600	14	35	40½	3	24	32½
(*637)	650	1	14½	27	42	54	61

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
Royal Ins	340	27½	36	44½	0	3	7
(*386)	360	9½	21	26	7	20	31

	Series	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Puts Mar	Puts Jun
Fisons	260	5½	5½	—	0½	2	—
(*260)	280	0	6	—	15	15	—

	Series	Calls Feb	Calls May	Puts Feb	Puts May
Eastern Gp	950	2½	36	—	2	4	—
(*975)	1000	0½	3	—	2½	35½	—

	Series	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Puts Mar	Puts Jun	Puts Sep
Nat Pwr	420	29	46½	48	7	15	18
(*443)	460	12	25	29½	29	34	39
Scot Pwr	360	27½	26	41½	5	8	12
(*364)	390	9½	15½	24	19	21½	27

January 8, 1996 Tot: 26060 Calls: 16093 Puts: 11103 FT-SE Calls: 3474 Puts: 2576

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Mar 96	3734.0	3760.0	3732.0	3750.5	5579
Previous open interest: 62477	Jun 96				3752.5	0
FT-SE 250	Mar 96				4090.0	0
Previous open interest: 3312	Jun 96					0
Three Month Sterling	Mar 96	93.71	93.71	93.67	93.66	11890
Previous open interest: 329779	Jun 96	93.81	93.81	93.77	93.79	7939
	Sep 96	93.79	93.78	93.74	93.74	6503
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 96				94.64	0
Previous open interest: 0						
Three Mth Euro DM	Mar 96	96.45	96.46	96.42	96.43	9979
Previous open interest: 957392	Jun 96	96.56	96.57	96.54	96.55	9254
Long Gilt	Mar 96	110-14	110-14	110-05	110-08	23644
Previous open interest: 126144	Jun 96	109-20	109-20	109-20	109-22	4
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 96	119.03	119.14	118.98	119.01	1793
	Jun 96				117.60	0
German Gov Bd Bund	Mar 96	99.65	99.77	99.45	99.61	96414
Previous open interest: 214920	Jun 96	99.00	99.00	98.92	98.93	1075
Three month ECU	Mar 96	95.07	95.07	95.03	95.04	955
Previous open interest: 15709	Jun 96	95.17	95.17	95.17	95.18	35
Euro Swiss Franc	Mar 96	98.27	98.27	98.24	98.25	2179
Previous open interest: 45675	Jun 96	98.32	98.32	98.30	98.31	1971
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 96	109.40	109.58	109.19	109.42	27735
Previous open interest: 59057	Jun 96	108.90	108.90	108.80	108.93	226

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6½ Finance Hse 7

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6½ Low 6½ Week fixed: 6½

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6½; 3 mth 6½ Sell: 2 mth 6½; 3 mth 6½

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis)	6½-6½	6½-6½	6½-6½	6½-6½	
Sterling Money Rates	6½-6½	6½-6½	6½-6½	6½-6½	6½-6½
Interbank	6½-6½	6½-6½	6½-6½	6½-6½	6½-6½
Overnight: open 6½ close 6½					
Local Authority Deps	6½	n/a	6½	6½	6½
Sterling CDs	6½-6½	6½-6½	6½-6½	6½-6½	6½-6½
Dollar CDs	5.54	n/a	5.51	5.35	5.27
Building Society CDs	6½-6½	6½-6½	6½-6½	6½-6½	6½-6½

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar	5½-5½	5½-5½	5½-5½	5½-5½	5½-4½
Deutschemark	3½-3½	3½-3½	3½-3½	3½-3½	4½-3½
French Franc	4½-4½	4½-4½	4½-4½	5-4½	5-4
Swiss Franc	2-1½	1½-1½	1½-1½	1½-1½	2-1
Yen	½-½	½-½	½-½	½-½	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $395.55-395.85 **Close:** $396.35-396.55 **High:** $396.50-397.00 **Low:** $395.45-395.35 **AM:** $396.00 **PM:** $396.60

Krugerrand: $396.55-396.45 (£255.50-257.50)

Platinum: $415.00 (£267.70) **Silver:** $5.52 (£3.555) **Palladium:** $130.75 (£84.35)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Jan 8	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.4976-2.5055	2.4992-2.5024	½-¼pr	1½-1¼pr
Brussels	45.83-45.90	45.85-45.95	13-10pr	34-28pr
Copenhagen	8.6220-8.6520	8.6240-8.6400	1½-1pr	4½-3½pr
Dublin	0.9675-0.9704	0.9675-0.9700	10-7pr	24-19pr
Frankfurt	2.2304-2.2348	2.2316-2.2347	½-½pr	1½-1¼pr
Lisbon	231.50-232.55	231.50-232.13	33-60ds	103-148ds
Madrid	187.58-187.90	187.62-187.90	44-54ds	122-137ds
Milan	2442.1-2451.5	2442.1-2446.1	8-9ds	23-25ds
Montreal	2.1059-2.1107	2.1076-2.1106	0.16-0.10pr	0.32-0.21pr
New York	1.5498-1.5513	1.5502-1.5512	0.13-0.11pr	0.34-0.31pr
Oslo	9.8330-9.8600	9.8370-9.8520	1-½pr	3-1½pr
Paris	7.6440-7.6640	7.6470-7.6610	1½-1pr	2½-2½pr
Stockholm	10.257-10.291	10.260-10.283	½-½ds	½-½ds
Tokyo	163.21-163.67	163.31-163.55	1½-1pr	2½-2½pr
Vienna	15.688-15.726	15.691-15.718	½-½pr	1-½pr
Zurich	1.7992-1.8067	1.9025-1.8053	½-½pr	2½-2pr

Source: Extel

Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3395-1.3404
Austria	10.13-10.14
Belgium (Com)	29.63-29.64
Canada	1.3602-1.3606
Denmark	5.5735-5.5770
France	4.9395-4.9410
Germany	1.4405-1.4410
Hong Kong	7.7327-7.7337
Ireland	1.5988-1.6008
Italy	1576.00-1577.00
Japan	105.50-105.60
Malaysia	2.5577-2.5587
Netherlands	1.6132-1.6142
Norway	6.3523-6.3543
Portugal	149.62-149.72
Singapore	1.4252-1.4262
Spain	121.16-121.24
Sweden	6.6285-6.6360
Switzerland	1.1635-1.1645

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5493-1.5519
Australia dollar	2.0745-2.0791
Bahrain dinar	0.5785-0.5905
Brazil real*	1.5059-1.5100
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.7000-0.7100
Finland markka	6.6975-6.8135
Greece drachma	363.50-370.50
Hong Kong dollar	11.9818-11.9911
India rupee	54.61-55.57
Indonesia rupiah	3517.00-3585.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4590-0.4690
Malaysia ringgit	3.9628-3.9664
New Zealand dollar	2.3536-2.3569
Pakistan rupee	53.00 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7525-5.8785
Singapore dollar	2.2082-2.2112
S Africa rand (com)	5.5770-5.6790
U A E dirham	5.6325-5.7565

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	196	Land Secs	794
ASDA Gp	6,700	Legal & Gn	613
Abbey Ntl	2,300	Lloyds TSB	3,700
Allied Dom	711	Marks Spr	3,500
Argos	846	NatWst Bk	3,400
Argyll Gp	1,500	Nat Grid	3,400
AB Foods	730	Nat Power	3,100
BAA	1,700	P & O	457
BAT Inds	1,600	Pearson	719
BOC	391	Pilkington	3,000
BP	3,800	PowerGen	1,200
BSkyB	1,400	Prudential	1,600
BTR	3,800	REXAM	1,000
BT	4,300	RMC	965
Bk of Scot	1,500	RTZ	1,800
Barclays	2,100	Rank Org	914
Bass	1,500	Reckitt Col	1,800
Blue Circle	2,000	Redland	1,500
Boots	2,600	Reed Intl	1,600
BAe	1,000	Rentokil	691
BA	2,700	Reuters	953
Brit Gas	16,000	Rolls Royce	6,600
Brit Steel	6,300	Royal Ins	1,100
Burmah Cstl	371	Ryl Bk Scot	256
Burton	2,500	Sainsbury	2,200
Cable Wire	1,700	Schroders	7
Cadbury	569	Scot & New	2,000
Carlton Cms	1,300	Scot Power	3,600
Cm Union	916	Svrn Trent	765
Cookson	3,200	Shell Trans	4,400
Courtaulds	1,000	Siebe	196
Dixons	3,600	SmKl Bch	3,200
Enterpr Oil	994	Smith Nph	1,300
For & Col IT	2,100	Smiths Inds	1,000
Forte	3,600	Sthern Elec	436
GKN	661	Std Chartd	2,500
GRE	1,900	Sun Allnce	250
GUS	976	TI Gp	193
Gen Acc	1,000	Tate & Lyle	3,000
Gen Elec	5,500	Tesco	4,000
Glaxo Well	2,100	Thames W	153
Granada	666	Thrn EMI	767
Grand Met	904	Tomkins	2,400
Guinness	1,700	Unilever	446
HSBC	1,300	United Utils	1,100
Hanson	6,100	Vodafone	2,700
ICI	1,700	Whitbread	326
Kingfisher	1,300	Wlms Hld	438
LASMO	926	Wolseley	803
Ladbroke	3,600	Zeneca	1,400

WALL STREET

	Jan 8 midday	Jan 5 close
AMP Inc	39⅝	39⅞
AMR Corp	74⅝	74⅝
AT & T	67⅝	66⅞
Abbott Labs	42⅛	41⅞
Advanced Micro	17⅝	17⅝
Aetna Life	70	70⅛
Ahmanson (HF)	25⅝	25⅝
Air Prod & Chem	55⅝	55
AirTouch Comm	27⅝	27⅛
Alberto-Culver B	34⅛	34⅛
Albertson's	33	33⅝
Alcan Alumnm	31⅛	31⅛
Alco Standard	45⅛	45⅛
Allied Signal	49⅝	48⅛
Alum Co of Am	55⅛	55⅝
Amax Gold Inc	6⅞	6⅞
Amerada Hess	54⅝	54⅛
Amer Brands	44⅛	44⅛
Amer El Power	41½	41⅝
Amer Express	41⅛	41
Amer Genl Corp	34	34⅛
Amer Home Pr	96⅝	95⅝
Amer Intl	94⅛	94
Amer Stores	26⅛	26⅛
Amer Standard	27⅛	26
Ameritech	59⅛	59⅝
Amoco	71⅞	71⅞
Anheuser-Busch	68⅝	68
Apple Computer	34⅛	34⅛
Archer Daniels	18½	18⅝
Armco	6⅛	6⅛
Armstrng Wrld	64⅛	63⅞
Asarco	30⅛	29⅞
Ashland Oil	35⅞	36
Atl Richfield	116⅝	116
Auto Data Pro	37⅛	37½
Avery Dennison	51⅛	51
Avon Products	75⅝	74⅛
Baker Hughes	23⅞	23⅝
Baltim Gas & El	29	29⅛
Banc One	36⅛	37½
BankAmerica	62⅞	63⅞
Bank of NY	46⅛	45⅛
Bankers Tr NY	65⅛	65
Barnett Banks	57⅞	57⅛
Bausch & Lomb	38⅞	39
Baxter Intl	43⅛	42⅛
Bectn Dicknsn	74⅝	74⅝
Bell Atlantic	66⅛	69⅝
Bell Industries	21⅛	21⅛
BellSouth	44⅛	44⅝
Black & Decker	34⅝	34⅛
Block (H&R)	41⅞	40⅞
Boeing	80⅛	78⅞
Boise Cascade	36⅝	36
Bristol Myrs Sq	83⅛	85⅞
Browning Ferris	30⅛	30⅛
Brunswick	22⅞	22⅞
Burlington Nthn	76⅝	76⅝
CNA Financial	114⅞	114⅞
CPC Intl	70	70
CSX	45⅝	45⅝
CCH A	55⅛	55⅝
Campbell Soup	58⅝	58⅛
Can Pacific	19	19⅛
Cpd Cities ABC	125⅞	125⅝
Carolina Pwr	34⅛	35⅛
Caterpillar	60⅝	61
Central & SW	27⅛	27⅛
Champion Intl	42	42⅛
Chase Manhat	58	58
Chemical Bk	55⅛	56
Chevron Corp	55⅞	55⅞
Chrysler	55⅝	55⅛
Chubb Corp	102⅞	101⅝
Cigna Corp	107⅞	106⅞
Citicorp	65⅝	65⅝
Clorox	72⅛	72⅛
Coastal Corp	36⅝	36⅛
Coca Cola	74⅞	74⅞
Colgate-Palmolive	71⅛	71⅛
Columbia Gas	44⅝	44⅛
ColumbiaHCA	53⅞	52⅞
Compaq Comp	47⅞	47⅛
Comp Ass Intl	56⅛	56
ConAgra	43	42⅞
Conrail	71⅛	71⅛
Cons Edison	32⅛	32⅛
Cons Nat Gas	45⅞	45⅛
Cooper Inds	37⅞	37
Corestates	37⅝	37
Corning Inc	30⅞	30⅞
Crown Cork	41⅛	42
Dana Corp	30⅛	30⅛
Dayton Hudson	76⅛	75⅞
Deere	36⅝	36⅛
Delta Air Lines	76⅛	77⅛
Deluxe Corp	28⅞	28½
Detroit Edison	34⅛	34⅝
Digital Equip	58⅝	58
Dillard Dept St	29⅛	28⅞
Disney (Walt)	61⅝	61⅞
Dominion Res	42⅝	42⅛
Donnelley (RR)	37⅞	37⅝
Dover Corp	37⅛	37⅛
Dow Chemical	72⅞	72⅝
Dow Jones	39⅝	39⅛
Dresser	24⅛	24⅛
Duke Power	47⅛	47⅝
Dun & Brdsreet	62⅞	63

	Jan 8 midday	Jan 5 close
Du Pont	73⅝	72⅛
Eastman Kodak	69	68⅞
Eaton Corp	56⅝	57⅝
Emerson Elec	80⅛	80⅝
Engelhard Corp	23⅝	23⅝
Enron Corp	38	37⅝
Entergy	29⅝	29⅛
Ethyl Corp	12⅛	12⅛
Exxon	84⅝	83⅝
FMC Corp	69⅝	69⅝
FPL Group	45⅛	45⅝
Federal Express	75	74⅛
Fed Nat Mtge	121⅛	121⅝
First Interstate	135	134⅞
First Union Rlty	7⅛	7⅛
Fleet Finl Grp	41	41⅝
Fluor Corp	63⅝	63⅝
Ford Motor	29⅝	29
GTE Corp	44⅛	45⅛
Gannett	60⅝	60⅝
Gap Inc Del	46⅛	47⅛
Gen Dynamics	59⅞	59⅝
Gen Electric	73⅞	72⅝
Gen Mills	54⅛	55⅝
Gen Motors	51⅝	50⅝
Gen Reinsurance	154⅞	154⅝
Gen Signal	33⅞	33⅝
Genuine Parts	40⅞	40⅝
Georgia Pac	71⅝	71⅝
Gillette	53⅝	53⅞
Glaxo Welle ADR	27⅞	27⅞
Goodrich (BF)	68⅞	69⅞
Goodyear Tire	43⅞	43⅝
Grace (W&R)	58⅝	58⅝
Grt Atl Pac Tea	21⅞	22⅞
Great Wstn Fin	24⅛	25
Halliburton	47⅞	47⅝
Harcourt General	40⅝	40⅝
Heinz (HJ)	33⅞	33⅞
Hercules	56	56⅝
Hershey Foods	65⅞	65⅝
Hewlett Packard	79⅝	79⅛
Hilton Hotels	64⅛	63⅞
Home Depot	44⅝	45⅝
Homestake Mng	17⅛	17⅝
Honeywell	46⅝	46⅝
Household Intl	57	56⅝
Houston Inds	25⅝	25⅝
Humana	26⅞	26⅝
ITT Corp	51⅝	51⅝
Illinois Tool	57	57⅝
Illinova	29⅝	30⅛
INCO	33⅞	33⅞
Ingersoll Rand	37⅛	37⅝
Inland Steel	27	27
Intel Corp	57⅛	57⅛
IBM	88⅛	88⅞
Intl Flav & Fr	48⅝	48
Intl Paper	39⅛	38⅞
James River Va	22⅛	23⅝
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	86⅛	86⅝
Kellogg	76⅝	76⅝
Kerr-McGee	65⅞	64⅝
Kimberly-Clark	80⅛	79⅝
Kmart	8⅝	8
Knight-Ridder	61⅝	62⅛
Lilly (Eli)	53⅞	57⅛
Limited Inc	16⅛	16⅝
Lincoln Nat	51⅝	52⅛
Litton	47	45⅝
Liz Claiborne	28⅛	28⅞
Lockheed Martin	78⅞	77⅛
Louisiana Pac	24⅝	25⅛
MCI Comm	26⅛	26⅛
Marriott Int	39⅝	39⅛
Marsh & McLnn	88⅛	88⅝
Masco Corp	29⅞	29⅝
May Dept St	45⅛	45⅛
Maytag Corp	20⅛	20⅛
McDonalds	44⅛	44⅛
McDonnell D	94⅛	92⅝
McGraw Hill	97⅞	87⅛
Mead Corp	54⅝	54⅛
Medtronic	51⅝	50
Mellon Bk	51⅛	51⅛
Melville Corp	31⅝	31⅝
Merck Inc	63⅝	63
Merrill Lynch	51⅝	51⅛
Microsoft	86⅝	86⅝
Minnesota Mine	67⅝	67⅛
Mobil Corp	117⅛	117⅛
Monsanto	124⅝	123⅞
Morgan (JP)	77⅞	77⅝
Motorola Inc	56⅝	57
Natl Semi	22	22⅛
Natl Service Ind	33⅞	33⅞
Navistar Intl	11⅝	12
NY Times A	27⅛	28
Newmont Mng	49	48⅛
Niag Mohawk	9⅛	9⅝
Nike B	66⅝	66⅝
NL Industries	13⅛	13⅛
Noram Energy	8⅝	8⅞
Nordstrom	41⅝	42
Norfolk Sthrn	79⅛	79⅝
Nthn State Pwr	49⅞	49⅝
Norwest Corp	32⅝	32⅝
Nynex Corp	53⅞	53⅝
Occidental Pet	22⅛	21⅛
Ohio Edison	24	24⅛

	Jan 8 midday	Jan 5 close
Oracle	42⅝	47⅛
Oryx Energy Co	13⅝	13⅝
Owens Corning	44⅝	44⅝
PPG Industries	40⅛	40⅝
PNC Bank	29⅝	29⅝
PP&L Res	25⅛	25⅝
Paccar Inc	44⅛	44⅝
Pacificorp	21⅛	21⅛
Pac Enterprises	28⅝	28⅝
Pac Gas & Elect	28⅛	28⅛
Pac Telesis	34⅝	39⅛
Pall Corp	25⅝	25⅛
Panhandle East	28⅝	28⅛
Parker Hannifin	34⅝	34⅝
Peco Energy	30⅛	30⅛
Penney (JC)	47⅛	47⅛
Pennzoil	42⅛	42⅝
Pepsico	55⅝	55⅝
Pfizer	63⅞	63⅛
Pharm & Upjhn	38	38⅛
Phelps Dodge	59⅝	60⅝
Philip Morris	90	89⅛
Phillips Pet	34⅛	34⅝
Pitney Bowes	46⅛	46⅛
Polaroid	47⅝	48
PriceCostco	16⅛	16⅝
Procter & Gmbl	87⅝	87⅝
Providian	41⅛	41⅝
Pub Serv E & G	31⅝	31⅝
Quaker Oats	34⅝	34⅝
Ralston Purina	60⅛	60
Raychem Corp	54	53⅞
Raytheon	46	46
Reebok Intl	28	27⅝
Reynolds Metals	55⅝	56⅛
Rockwell Intl	53⅝	53
Rohm & Haas	64⅛	64⅝
Royal Dutch	144	142⅞
Rubbermaid	25⅞	25⅝
SBC Comms	58⅛	59
Safeco Corp	35⅞	35⅞
St Paul's Cos	58⅝	58⅞
Salomon Inc	35⅝	35⅝
Sara Lee Corp	31⅛	31⅝
Scecorp	17⅝	18
Schering Plough	54⅛	54⅝
Schlumberger	67⅝	67
Seagram	36⅛	36
Sears Roebuck	41⅝	42⅝
Shell Trans	82⅝	82⅝
Sherwin Wllms	41	41⅝
Skyline Corp	20⅝	20⅞
Snap-On-Tools	45⅝	45⅞
Southern Co	24⅝	24⅝
Sprint Corp	41⅝	41
Stanley Works	50⅛	50⅝
Sun Company	29	27⅝
Sun Microsys	40⅝	40⅝
Suntrust	66⅝	67⅞
Supervalu	31⅝	32⅞
Sysco Corp	31⅝	31⅝
TRW Inc	80⅝	79⅞
TCC Inds	2⅝	2⅞
Tandem Comp	10⅝	10⅝
Tandy Corp	36⅝	38⅛
Teledyne	26⅝	26⅞
Temple Inland	44⅛	44⅞
Tenneco	49⅛	49⅞
Texaco	83⅛	81
Texas Inst	48⅞	49⅝
Texas Utilities	41⅝	41⅛
Textron	71⅞	71⅝
Time Warner	38⅝	38
Times-Mirror A	33⅛	32⅞
Timken	39⅝	38⅞
Torchmark	45⅞	45⅞
Toys R Us	24⅝	24⅛
Transamerica	73⅛	72⅛
Travelers	60⅛	60⅝
Tribune	60	60⅝
Tyco Labs	34⅝	34⅝
UST Inc	34⅛	34⅝
UAL	177⅝	179⅞
US Inds	17⅛	18
USX Marathon	20⅝	20⅛
Unicom	33⅝	33⅝
Unilever NV	144⅝	144⅝
Union Camp	49	48⅝
Union Carbide	39	38⅝
Union Pacific	67⅝	67⅞
Unisys Corp	6⅝	6⅝
USAIR Group	14⅝	14⅞
USF&G Corp	16⅝	16⅝
US Life	30⅛	30⅛
United Tech	93⅝	93
Unocal Corp	30⅛	29⅞
VF Corp	52	52⅞
WMX Tech	30⅛	30⅛
Wal-Mart Stores	23⅛	23⅛
Warner-Lambert	95⅝	96⅝
Wells Fargo	210⅝	210
Westinghouse El	18	18⅝
Weyerhaeuser	43⅝	43⅝
Whirlpool	53⅝	53⅞
Whitman	23	22⅞
Winn Dixie	37⅝	37⅝
Woolworth	12⅝	12⅝
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	53⅝	52⅞
Xerox	131⅝	132⅞
Yellow Corp	12	12⅞

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Curling stays on his bike

PROMOTION to the top at Osborne Clarke, the law firm, where employees are expected to have "a distinctive personal style", has done nothing to change the travelling habits of Chris Curling. He's been with the firm since 1978, and has just been made senior partner in Bristol.

The post, you would imagine, brings with it a car and a parking space. Curling, a keen cyclist, has been peddling seven miles to and from work for several years and has no intention of changing his mode of transport. But he has bagged the parking bay for his bike.

Women aboard

MIKE GOLDING, who beat Chay Blyth's solo circumnavigation record by more than 100 days in 1994, has changed his ways and his crew for the BT Global Challenge. Four years ago, in the British Steel race, he had the only all-male crew. Now, he has welcomed three women aboard. However, only two can be named: Amanda Tristram and Alex Sizer. The third, a communications manager with a City firm, hid behind fellow crew members during the photocall, saying: "I haven't told my boss yet that I will be taking nine months off work."

Spared the axe

SOME luck, of sorts, is coming the way of Smith New Court staff, whose firm was absorbed into Merrill Lynch last year. It's that time of the year when Merrill examines costs, and out of a worldwide workforce of 44,000, possibly up to 250 will be tapped on the shoulder. In Britain, the firm employs 3,000, of which 24 could go. However, I am assured, none of the troops at former SNC is on the list.

Trading first

ING Barings has become the first overseas broker to open on the floor of the Johannesburg stock exchange without "paying" for the privilege. Trading commenced yesterday, marking the next stage in the local development of the firm, which opened a research office in Johannesburg in October, 1994. Greg Mackay, London-based head of dealing for South African products, is in South Africa to oversee the latest push, supporting Simon Hollis, local head of operations.

ANTHONY BROOKE, a managing director at SBC Warburg, is joining BZW next month as a senior banker in its merchant banking division, with responsibility for UK corporate coverage.

Howe on form

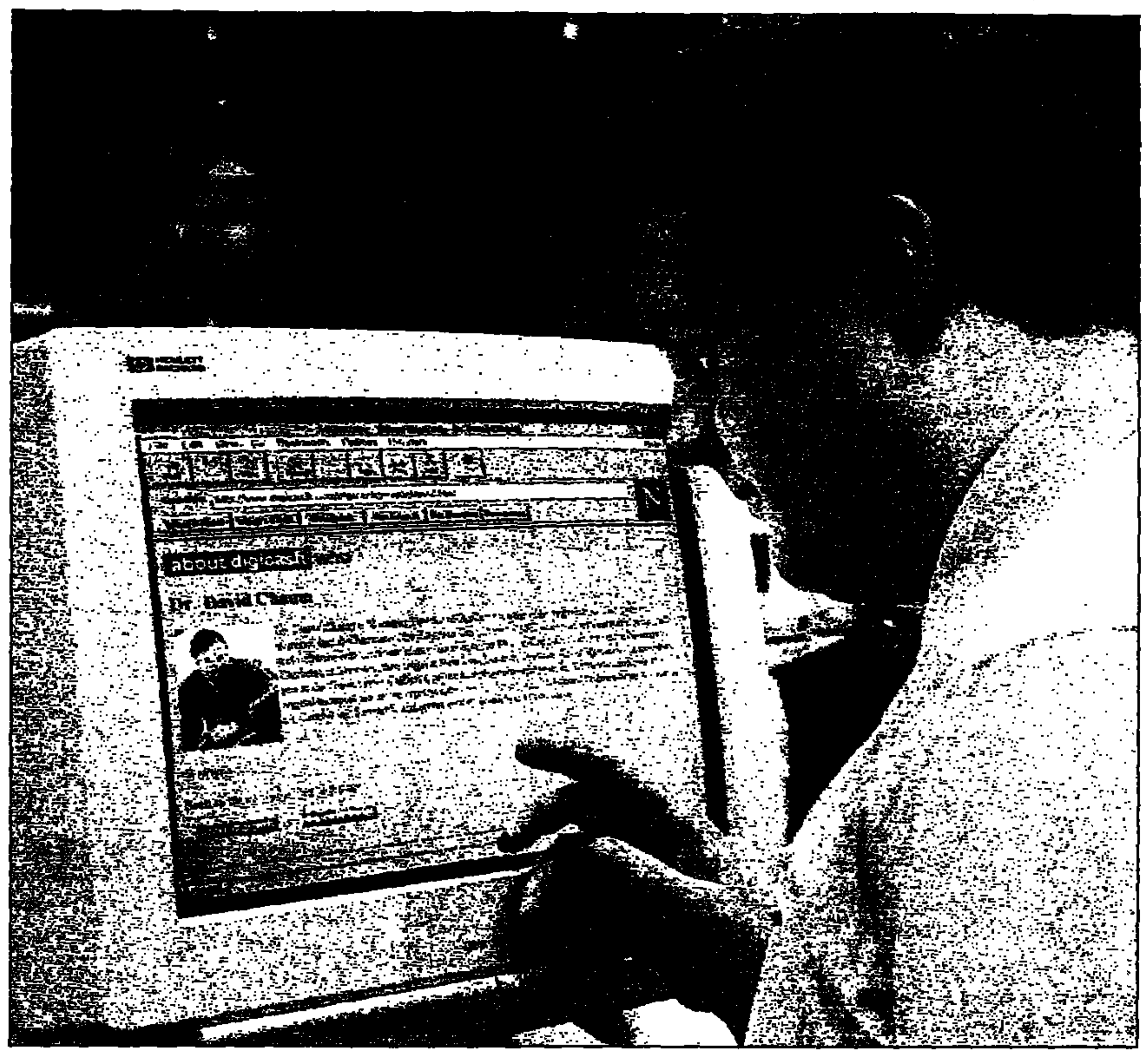
THE importer of Louis Roederer Champagne is staggered by the accuracy of Nigel Howe in predicting the year-end FT-SE 100 index. It promised a jeroboam of 1989 Roederer Cristal for the closest prediction. In July, Howe, 38, from Peel Hunt, the broker, opted for 3,689.2, one-tenth of a point lower than the actual close. Tonight, he picks up his prize, equivalent to four normal bottles. A jeroboam recently fetched £800 at auction. His prediction for the end of this year is 3,720.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Digital money opens way to cashless global trading

The Internet needs a safe way to barter, reports

Alasdair Murray


Net prophet: Dr David Chaum, Digicash founder, appearing on the Internet to explain the ecash system

The business potential for the Internet is beyond doubt. It offers a future of ultra-quick, efficient and, above all, global business. But to date the greatest commercial use seems to have been as a glorified advertising forum for corporations desperate to gain youthful credibility.

Until a safe, convenient and recognised form of electronic money arrives, it remains a huge global marketplace without a means of barter. The real net revolutionaries are not the prophets of the information superhighway, whose science-fiction visions of the future have coloured coverage to date, but the small band of companies working on Internet payment systems. If they are successful the repercussions will go far beyond giving office workers the opportunity to order pizzas online.

Analysts estimate there will be a potential Internet market worth £400 billion by the end of the decade. Electronic money offers the perfect means of exchange, providing instant settlement, easy storage and saving on bank fees. It will also open the door to anyone seeking to place money in tax havens, enabling floods of currency to circulate around the globe, far from the state's reach.

As Ray Hammond, who is writing a book on the subject entitled *Digital Money*, to be published by Hodder and Stoughton in the spring, says: "Electronic money will be a major threat to national economic sovereignty. Its growth will diminish the role of the state and encourage the rise of new money providers — economic corporations."

As yet, there is no clear indication which of the electronic money schemes is going to be a winner. But choices made now will have a profound effect on what kind of system evolves. The big guns, Microsoft, Visa and Mastercard, have only recently entered the fray. They are working on protocols for encrypted credit card payments to ensure a hacker will not be able to pick up your credit card number online and take it on an instant shopping spree. The original concept was for Visa and Mastercard to work together to establish a single system, but Visa has teamed up with Microsoft and Mastercard with Netscape to launch competing systems.

Credit card systems will give Internet commerce a boost, providing mail order companies with a novel outlet for their wares, but ultimately they can only be part of the solution. Much net commerce is likely to revolve around small payments for data, whether it is paying pennies to read an online database or taking part in an interactive game.

What is needed is an Internet payment system that more closely resembles cash and this is where the small dedicated companies, with names such as Cybercash and Digicash, come in. Cybercash has developed a system that goes one step beyond the credit card. The user deposits money with a bank affiliated to the scheme — there are currently ten participating institutions — and then downloads an electronic purse to spend in Internet shops. After a purchase is made, the shopkeeper contacts the customer's bank, the electronic money provides the necessary information, and converts the digital money back into real cash.

Cybercash's system most closely resembles a switch card and the company itself cautiously refers to it as an electronic method of messaging money.

Magdalena Yefil, a co-founder of Cybercash, believes the attraction is that it keeps a tight control on real funds: "The money is in the bank account so there is no question of where the money is."

Cybercash also offers real benefits for global transactions. Money can be deposited in any denomination, even though, so far, the participating banks are only in the US. Paying in Cybercash will cut out expensive currency conversion for both customers and businesses.

Digicash, founded by David Chaum, the guru of cryptology, is far more ambitious in the development of its electronic money scheme, ecash. It dispenses with the need for an escrow account, working more like an ATM (automated teller machine). An account is set up, the amount of ecash to be withdrawn is requested and the amount downloaded to your personal computer. When asked to pay, you confirm the transaction and your software transfers the required amount. Vendors then deposit coins in their own digital accounts.

Digicash has just gone live, teaming up with the Mark Twain Bank of St Louis, Missouri, which provides the bank accounts. Swedish Post, whose retail banking arm has direct access to more than 75 per cent of Swedish households, has also bought a licence to use ecash, although it has yet to give a launch date.

Well-reported cases of hackers stealing data have raised fears about the security of money on the Internet. But Digicash maintains that the built-in security provided by ecash makes it more secure than existing methods of holding money. Ecash uses encryption techniques as powerful as those used for nuclear secrets, to protect it in transfer, and a digital signature that makes any coin unique and usable just once. If you lose your money, through a computer crash for instance, a back-up number allows you to regenerate the coins. If someone refuses to give you a receipt, the digital signature will provide proof that you spent the money.

> If electronic cash succeeds the market could be worth $400bn by the end of the decade

But every advance in electronic money technology increases fears that the freedom that digital money offers also increases the potential for abuse. The ability to transfer sums anywhere in the world instantaneously, was previously only available to the money markets. Now it will be possible for anyone to send funds to some Internet bank offshore, far beyond the reach of the taxman, or to set up an Internet business in any obliging country in the world, without leaving home.

Mr Hammond, whose Hammond organisation specialises in Internet and business, says: "The ease with which money can be moved about and the levels of anonymity available will speed up the shift towards relying on indirect taxation."

If ecash takes off and banks or even companies decide to start lending electronic currency, the currency begins to take on a life of its own, no longer backed by cash held in accounts or by a direct conversion from hard money. It will develop a value divorced from government-issued cash, and if the money is issued by reputable businesses who can guarantee its value, it could quickly prove more attractive than a number of the weaker currencies around the world.

Mr Hammond believes that this is a distinct possibility: "You will get a situation where Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury's or Microsoft want to issue their own money, a kind of extension of voucher shopping. The money will succeed if they can back it with resources. We are going to see corporate money and companies making payments and valued by their exchange rate and not their stock price."

The flipside is that the world could return to a system of competing private currencies, and when trust breaks down much of the issued ecash will end up worth no more than monopoly money. In America in the mid-nineteenth century, a number of US banks that privately issued money crashed, leading the government to take control of the money system.

It is trust that is the essential element in the equation. Money can only act as a store of value if people believe in it. For the moment digital money is likely to preserve its value only if can be exchanged for traditional currencies like the dollar, sterling or the mark.

"People have trust in the existing banking system and it will serve no purpose to undermine that trust," says Ms Yelif. "This is why we chose to launch Cybercash not as a new denomination but as a way of bringing the benefits of electronic transfers to the existing environment."

This reasoning might also explain why the Bank of England does not appear too worried by the developments. "The biggest question we will face is deciding whether companies offering ecash are taking deposits," says Chris Bailey, a spokesman for the Bank. "If it is, and it looks as though in most cases it will be, the company will have to fulfil deposit-taking regulations. Consumers will be protected by existing regulations."

But the biggest brake on the development of ecash is likely to be the consumer, who finds it hard enough already to put trust in the banking and monetary system. To expect digital money to sweep the system away almost overnight is to make the old mistake of assuming technology always drives people. Digital money will only succeed if it adapts to the needs of its users.

ANATOLE KALETSKY

Blair misses the point

Tony Blair is a man of strong opinions, but he doesn't quite know what they are. His speech in Singapore yesterday laid out the "economic big idea" that is supposed to cap Mr Blair's reconstruction of the Labour Party by giving the voters a positive reason to support Labour. Contrary to the world-weary cynicism that passes for insight in the dinner party consensus, Mr Blair does have a big idea. In fact, he has at least two big ideas. The trouble is that they sound clichéd, meaningless and uninspiring.

Mr Blair says that he wants to create a "stakeholder society" that would bind the nation together in the common enterprise of achieving economic success. He also wants to extirpate long-term unemployment, promising that "the problems of low pay and unemployment must be tackled at source". What he does not seem to recognise — and certainly does not convey — are the potentially revolutionary implications of these apparent platitudes.

Beneath the hideous business school jargon of the "stakeholder society", what Mr Blair seems to be talking about is a new definition of socialism: as the antithesis not of capitalism but of narrow individualism. He is repudiating the Thatcherite slogan that "there is no such thing as society". He is implying that an every-man-for-himself society in which individuals confine themselves to fighting for their own material interests will not be politically popular or even economically successful.

In making these claims, Mr Blair seems to have stumbled onto a potentially inspiring project for the new Left: to redefine socialism as the politics of co-operative social action, rather than of state ownership or income redistribution. To do this, he must put meaning into the mysterious third element of the old left-wing slogan — liberty, equality, fraternity.

This is a big idea if ever there were one. But does Mr Blair realise that this is what his call for a "stakeholder society" is really about? And is he prepared to take the political risk of moving from managerial jargon to the language of social revolution?

Now consider unemployment. To tackle unemployment "at source" would require a complete transformation in the conduct of economic policy in Britain. The minimum conditions would be root-and-branch reform of the Treasury and the Bank of England — including the removal of most of their senior officials — and total repudiation of the monetarist orthodoxy that governments must never "take risks" with inflation, enthusiastically endorsed by Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor.

There is a simple arithmetical fact: unemployment can only be reduced if the economy grows by more than the growth of productivity plus the growth in the number of people who want to work. Given the rapid rate of technological progress that Mr Blair wants to promote and the large number of alienated, work-shy and otherwise discouraged people he wants to coax into the labour force, the combined growth of productive potential is likely to be at least 3 per cent. It is, then, a matter of simple arithmetic to see that unemployment can only be reduced within a reasonable period — say the five-year lifetime of a parliament — if the economy grows by about 4 per cent.

What (if anything) a government can do to achieve such rapid growth is an open question. What is indisputable, however, is that the Treasury and the Bank can easily *prevent* rapid growth taking place. All they have to do is to raise interest rates and/or taxes every time the economy accelerates above, say, 3.5 per cent. This is precisely what the people who now run the Treasury and the Bank devoutly believe in. Long-term stagnation, combined with permanent mass unemployment, can then be guaranteed.

Yet Labour leaves this powerful point to be made by such anti-establishment right-wingers as Patrick Minford and John Redwood. Meanwhile, Mr Blair does not seem to understand his own promises and cries only crocodile tears for the unemployed.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Funding a personal service to beat youth unemployment

From Mr George Barlow

Sir, As chairman of the Gateway Project and Partnership in north Southwark, I must write to endorse the South London Training and Enterprise Council call "for substantial investment in training and work experience for young people" in London, as reported on January 2.

Gateway opened its doors two years ago to house, train and prepare 116 formerly homeless young people for work. The on-site training service provided has been hugely successful in getting 96 young people into work and 50 into further education. The customised assessment and training compact entered into by each young person has been the key to this success. It is a matter of regret that this vital ingredient in the training programme is not government-funded, but is dependent on the vagaries of charitable giving. The message is clear — the government-funded training packages, funded through the Training and Enterprise Councils, in themselves are not sufficient "to aid the transition into the world of work".

The key is the personal assessment of training need and the compact to achieve agreed targets, which now requires reliable and substantial investment if mass youth unemployment in London is to be avoided.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE BARLOW
(Chief Executive),
Peabody Trust,
45 Westminster Bridge Road,
SE1.

Disclosure needs better explanation

From Mr H.R. Wynne-Griffith

Sir, Your article on pension costs (December 29) highlights the difficulty in ensuring that disclosure of pension rights under Greenbury are not misconstrued. It is not correct to say that top directors were "given contributions" of some large amount. What those individuals were given were pension rights that automatically increase as their service gets longer. Each year that goes by clocks up an additional unit of pension. In many cases, the same is true when salary is increased. The simplistic approach to disclosure suggested by Greenbury will lead to more of the unhelpful comparisons that are quoted in the article.

Whilst disclosure is important, great care must be taken to ensure that complex expenditure such as that on pensions is not treated as if it were a simple, straightforward and quotable headline figure. More work needs to be done on the Greenbury proposals for disclosure before a satisfactory solution is found to this difficult problem.

Yours faithfully,
H. R. WYNNE-GRIFFITH,
Barnett Waddingham,
Consulting actuaries,
Bow Bells House,
11 Bread Street, EC4.

Tariffs system has to change

From Mr Paul S. Ing

Sir, Regarding "Cruickshank lays down the law" (Pennington, December 22), it seems continued British suicide that UK businesses are commercially forced to purchase communications products and services from overseas communications companies who do not have to submit their products and tariffs to the regulator.

Given British Telecom and Mercury have to submit their tariffs for services publicly, it allows overseas post and telecommunications companies to cherry-pick the UK market.

This structure is killing Mercury and unless we act soon we will lose another excellent British company. So please let us all play on the same playing field and allow UK business to purchase and fully support UK plc.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL S. ING,
17 Homestead Road,
Chelsfield Park,
Kent.

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Equities higher in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3040¾	2137½	ABN-AMRO	3040¾	+ 87½	4.2	11.5
656	413	Abbey Nat	651	+ 6	3.7	13.0
380	250	Allied Irish	365		4.0	10.6
313	198	Aus New Z	311	+ 1	6.1	...
4425	2531½	Bank America	4087½	- 18¾	...	...
307½	191½	Bank Scotland	234½	+ 1½	2.6	13.0
812½	557½	Barclays	764	- 7	3.7	10.4
488	288	Bk of Ireland†	476	- 4	3.6	9.5
525	418	Cater Allen	455	- 2	8.2	7.5
4718¾	2450	Citicorp	4268¾	..		
340½	218¾	Close Bros	326		3.3	14.5
£162¾	£125¾	Commerzbk	£156¾	+ 321½	3.4	..
1375	937½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1268¾	- 8¾	0.4	..
3231¼	2775	Deutsche Bk	3159¾	+ 34¾	2.3	..
881¼	568¾	Espirito Santo	643¾	+ 18¾	5.5	8.7
1811	1138¾	Fuji Bank Y	1449½	- 1¾	0.4	
490	385	Gerrard Nat	468	+ 1	6.0	15.1
253	180	Hambros	213		4.4	
1080	589	HSBC	1032½	- 1½	3.5	13.3
1001¼	578	HSBC HK	994½	- 3½	3.6	12.9
408	228	Irish Perm	408	+ 2	3.0	9.4
483	353	Joseph (L)	453		5.2	25.3
152	85	King Shaxson†	151	..	7.5	11.7
417	217	Lloyds TSB†	332	+ 2	..	
607	479	Nat Aust Bk	602	+ 2	6.6	...
697	454	Nat West	653	- 1	4.3	10.1
3000	2158	Ottoman Bank	2500	..	6.5	3.4
67	44	Rea Brothers	64		2.8	25.6
639½	373½	Ryl Bk Scot†	580	+ 6	3.5	13.1
1478	906¾	Schroders	1385		1.3	19.4
1180	823½	Schroders N/V	1100		1.6	15.8
111	81	Singer & Fried	108	..	4.2	11.3
625	346	Stand Chart	586	+ 18	1.9	14.7
127	70	Union	98	+ 1	3.8	
£145½	9043¾	Wells Fargo	£135½	- 381½	2.2	
287¼	211	Westpac	283	- 1¼	4.8	
295	200	Wintrust	275	..	5.4	15.5

BREWERIES

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
278	143	Ascot Hldgs	278	+ 1		0.6
735½	487	Bass	734	+ 2	3.9	18.9
472	239	Boddington	472	+ 1	2.4	34.3
192	137	Burtonwood Brwt	177	..	3.4	17.1
196	137	Eldridge P 'A'†	180	- 1	3.0	...
433	335	Fuller Sm 'A'†	416	.	2.6	17.8
589	402	Greenalls Grp	576	- 1	3.1	..
658	488	Greene King†	618	- 1½	2.9	16.5
357	240	Hardy Hanson	318	- 12	4.0	...
160	150	Heavitree	155	..	4.5	10.9
3425	3048	Hall J	3115	..	2.2	18.7
347	219	Mansfield	318	+ 1	2.1	16.0
325	266	Marston Thmpt	325	+ 5	2.8	15.3
548	391½	Morland†	548	+ 3	2.7	15.3
8¼	6	Paramount†	6¾	...	4.4	10.0
703	387	Regent Inns	689	..	1.3	27.1
2468¾	1287½	SA Breweries	2450	- 6¾	1.4	32.9
640	482	Scot & Newt	617	+ 4	3.0	18.6
337	230	Scot & New P/P	330	...		
231	173	Tom Cobleigh	228	..	1.5	37.0
309	211	Vaux Group†	274	- 1	4.7	14.2
645	443	Wetherspoon JD	644	+ 1	0.5	38.2
702	521	Whitbread†	698	..	3.7	17.2
597	483	Wolverhmptn D†	586	+ 1	3.2	..
310	186	Yates Brost	299	- ¼	1.3	36.6
475	425	Young 'A'	431	.	4.4	17.5

DISTRIBUTORS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
107½	86¾	ABI Lds	92	...	5.9	9.4
535	435	Adam & Harvey	435	...	5.8	6.7
21	13	Alexanders	16	..	5.5	36.3
113	86	Appleyard	100	...	7.5	10.6
4½	3¼	Ass Br Eng	3½	..	2.7	...
621	505	BSS Group†	505	- 5	4.9	14.5
39	31	Bard	37	...	...	...
24¼	16½	Bearing Power†	16½	.	9.5	11.8
28	18	Bogod 'A'†	26	..	3.4	9.3
483	345	Brammer	438	- 2	3.9	16.5
27	10½	Bridgend Grp	18	..	7.4	..
96	78	Brit Fittings	87	..	4.8	13.2
278	215	Caffyns	245	...	5.9	16.9
88	54	Central Mtr	77	..	4.6	20.9
61	35	Cook (DC)†	55	..	3.9	8.1
320½	220	Cowie	301	+ 4	3.9	13.0
155	126	Dag Motors	126	..	7.1	10.4
598	583	Dennis B	505	...	1.9	11.1
901	375½	Diplomat†	388		4.7	...
370	236	Electrocomponts†	348	+ 2	2.2	23.6
297	153	Eurodis Elec	287	+ 5	1.8	19.9
235	64	Eurocolor†	69	...	14.1	4.2
120	87	European Mtr†	96	...	6.8	8.2
449	280	Evans Halshaw	287	...	6.8	8.9
732	512	Farnell Elect	708	+ 1	1.7	20.6
72	48	File Indexer	68	..	8.2	10.8
24½	15	Gardiner	17	+ ½	6.0	7.5
37	26	Glencheyden	34½	+ ½	1.1	..
108	61	Gowrings	85	.	3.3	14.3
218	148	Harris (Phillip)†	218	.	4.2	13.9
225	142	Headlam	225	+ 2	2.3	19.7
554	358	Hartys	497	..	2.5	18.5
137	81	Holders Tech	133	..	5.6	25.3
163	86	ISA Intl	154	..	1.3	18.9
430	200	Inchcape	264	+ 3	7.1	24.0
66	58	Jacks (Wm)	60	..	1.6	11.4
187	142	Kwik-Fit	177	..	3.2	15.1
358¼	284½	Lex Service	327	+ 5	5.5	17.4
195	146	Lookers	147	- 1	6.5	8.1
22	9	Malaya Grp	10½	.	5.7	14.2
9¼	5	Middlesex	8¾	- ¼	0.7	20.1
71	38	Midstates	43	..	..	6.1
534	330	Norbain†	478	- 7	2.0	18.4
268	78	Northamber†	232	- 22½	1.8	18.6
155	135	PCT	137	..	7.0	9.8
283	225	Pendragon	272	- 1	3.9	14.2
166	123	Perry Gp	147	..	6.5	11.1
146	126	Quicks Group	135	..	5.3	11.5
198	160	REA	185	..	2.7	22.0
3¼	2¼	Reaco	3¼	..		
73	48	Ronson	61	+ 4	2.6	12.4
6½	2½	Ross Gp	3½	..		...
63½	37½	SEP Indl	53	..	3.8	...
17½	8½	Sabre	13½	+ 1	..	7.7
271	226	Tex Products	271	+ 10	4.3	15.9
275	151	Vardy (Reg)	273	..	2.6	17.3
325	248	Wholesale Ftgs	325	..	4.5	20.3
80	54½	Wichanst	58½	..	1.7	13.9
90	58½	Wyko	83	+ 5	1.8	..
118	88	Young (H)†	109	...	4.5	...

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
158	112	Brewin Dolphin	153	..	4.9	15.9
744	625	Caledonia†	733	- 2	2.9	22.7
2408	1900	Camellia	2300	...	2.0	21.2
22½	13	Carlisle	18	+ ¼	1.7	10.2
217	142	Cattles	216	+ ½	3.5	18.1
35	16	Chieftain	22	- 1	...	...
102	61	EFT Group	97	- 3	2.4	17.5
775	653	EFM	678	+ 6	4.4	19.9
185	91	Exco	97	...	7.7	4.9
305	181	Gartmore	272	...	2.5	28.6
1272	903	Henderson Adt	1145	...	4.9	23.4
256	162½	Invesco	240	- 6	2.5	17.1
49	41	Investment Co.†	42	...	6.8	12.9
237	198	Ivory Sime†	235	+ 1	4.1	17.4
249¼	164½	Jardine Sims	300¾	- 1¼	4.7	6.5
144	85	Johnson Fry	125	..	4.0	8.7
242½	131	Lon Forfaiting	233	...	5.1	16.6
379	230	London Pacific	320	...	8.2	3.7
182	116	Lon Scot Bk	181	...	3.9	21.1
182	138	Man ED & F	148½	+ ¼	8.0	7.8
1354	953	M & G†	1330	- 3	3.0	..
346	224	MAI	327	+ 1½	3.3	16.2
130½	78	MAI 5.9% Cv Pf	120¾	+ 1	6.1	...
965	888	MAM	898	+ 1	3.9	19.5
130	90	Nat Home Loans†	105	...	1.2	3.7
1913	1150	Perpetual†	1903	- 5	2.6	20.1
852	315	Provident	813	- 16	3.8	17.8
339	245	Rathbone Bro	329	...	3.6	16.9
41½	24½	Rutland Tst	41	..	4.0	17.9
355	261	S & U	317	+ 8	5.1	9.4
193	101½	S/P Capital	108	- ¼	3.5	20.4
528¾	305¼	Sime Pacific	514¼	- 10¾	2.4	20.2
78	41	Towry Law	42	...	7.4	...
371	302	Trancatlantic	341	...	5.2	22.9
26	3	Trio Hldgs	5	...	...	
26	16	Western Selecta	16		.	63.5

PHARMACEUTICALS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2100	425	Brit Biotech	1683	- 72	...	...
360	103	Cantab Pharms	360	...	...	...
614	233½	Celltech	585	+ 8	...	...
375	92½	Chiroscience	298	- 3	...	...
169	31	Cortecs	169	+ 2	...	
917	597	Glaxo Wellcome	895	+ 7	4.2	20.5
294	182	Medeva	285	+ 3	1.8	18.3
719	278	Scotia	566			
722	444	SmithKline B†	712	- 7	2.4	21.1
714	416	SmithKline Uts†	699	- 8	2.4	20.8
1337½	840	Zeneca	1253	- 12	2.8	25.5

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
269¾	173	Fine Group	173	- 19	4.6	14.5
81	45	Gieves	78	..	3.9	17.2
229	112	Goldsmiths Gp	215	- 8	2.0	19.5
696	608	GUS	698	+ 3	2.8	18.1
351	179	Hamleys	348	..	2.8	15.5
88	25	Hampton Grp	83	- 1	2.3	18.0
189	125	Hse of Fraser	186	- 4	4.1	27.4
83	57	Hughes (TJ)	60	.	5.5	13.3
188	86	Innovations	137	.	1.7	89.4
610	329	JJB Sports	590	- 11	1.3	27.9
560	379	Kingfisher	554	+ 2	3.5	18.5
170	100	Kingsbury Grp	170		1.7	23.9
365	208	Liberty	308	.	2.9	28.7
305	184	Lloyds Chem	289	+ 10	4.4	19.9
185	108	MFI†	159	- ¼	3.3	20.8
457	371	Marks Spencer†	432½	+ ¼	3.6	18.7
645	500	Menzies (John)	634	.	2.6	14.2
620	330	Moss Bros	620	.	2.8	18.1
499	252	Next	450	+ 4	2.6	24.8
54	27	OEM	41			...
96	34	Oliver (G)	57	+ 1	2.2	63.5
405	243	Ottakers	405	.	3.5	18.0
93	70	Partridge Fine	72	+ 1	5.7	9.9
155	45	QS Hldgs	45	.	14.4	11.8
17¾	5¾	Raine Grp	12½	...		
193	113	Rossbys	192	...	3.2	22.2
120½	95¼	Sears	109½	+ ¼	4.8	16.0
24	11½	Signet Group	16¼	..		
484	321	Smith WH	423	+ 5	4.6	14.9
859	638	Sotheby's	858	- 35	1.8	..
349	209	Storehouse†	332½	+ ½	2.5	20.5
140	112	Stylo	119	...	4.9	10.2
203	143	T & S Stores	189	...	4.4	12.0
169	98	Tie Rack†	169		2.0	17.7
4½	1	Upton & Southern	2¼	...	...	...
598	424	Vendome†	571	- 6	2.2	20.7
35	14	WEW Group	16	..	5.5	9.5
67	35	Wld of Leather	62		3.0	75.0
209	155	Wyevale	200	+ 2	3.2	17.8

SPIRITS, WINES & CIDERS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
566	476½	Allied Domecq†	556	+ 5	7.1	20.1
507	380	Bulmer (HP)†	503	+ 2½	3.1	15.8
148	99	Burn Stewart	130	..	4.8	28.0
497	352	Grand Met†	454	+ 5½	4.1	16.0
536	404	Guinness	491	+ 6	3.6	15.2
445	317	Highland Distl†	349	+ 1	2.9	15.5
217	176	Macallan-Glen	193	- 1	6.9	42.8
710	600	Macdn Mrtn 'A'†	625		2.2	17.6
694	532	Matthew Clark	693	+ 10	3.8	..
140	61	Merrydown Wt	112	+ 2	2.2	.

BRITISH FUNDS

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
105¾	102	Treas 15¼% 1996	102		14.83	6.24
107¼	102	Exch 13¼% 1996	102	...	12.94	6.20
104	103	Conv 10% 1996	103	...	9.70	6.24
101¼	97	Treas 7% 1997	101	...	6.93	6.33
109	107	Treas 13¼% 1997	107	†	12.38	6.19
105	104	Exch 10½% 1997	104		10.05	6.23
104	100	Treas 8¾% 1997	103		8.44	6.35
117	114	Exch 15% 1997	114		13.11	6.39
107	102	Exch 9¾% 1998	106 †		9.16	6.47
102	96	Treas 7¼% 1998	101		7.14	6.51
100	94	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	100	...	6.75	6.70
117	114	Treas 14% 1998-01	116		12.06	6.60
124	120	Treas 15½% 1998	121		12.73	6.64
114	109	Exch 12% 1998	113		10.56	6.69
108	100	Treas 9½% 1999	107 †		8.83	6.71
116	111	Exch 12¼% 1999	115		10.59	6.76
111	105	Treas 10½% 1999	111		9.45	6.78
98	89	Treas 6% 1999	97		6.15	6.79
112	105	Conv 10¼% 1999	111		9.20	6.74
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
108	100	Conv 9% 2000	107		8.37	6.88
105	98	Treas 8% 2000	104		7.66	6.92
124	117	Treas 13% 2000	123 †		10.56	6.92
113	104	Treas 10% 2001	112		8.88	7.08
100	90	Treas 7% 2001	99		7.03	7.08
114	103	Treas 9¾% 2002	112		8.63	7.25
104	94	Treas 8% 2003	104		7.80	7.29
116	105	Treas 10% 2003	115		8.67	7.33
119	110	Treas 11¾% 2001-04	118		9.71	7.20
83	70	Fund 3½% 1999-04	82 †		4.24	6.19
113	103	Conv 9½% 2004	112	...	8.42	7.48
96	86	Treas 6¾% 2004	95		7.09	7.48
108	97	Treas 8½% 2005	106		7.95	7.49
114	103	Conv 9½% 2005	112		8.42	7.53
130	119	Treas 12½% 2003-05	129		9.84	7.44
101	94	Treas 7½% 2006	99	...	7.50	7.50
102	92	Treas 7¾% 2006	101	...	7.64	7.54
104	93	Treas 8% 2002-06	102	...	7.79	7.61
124	112	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	123 †		9.52	7.42
109	97	Treas 8½% 2007	108 †		7.85	7.59
139	126	Treas 13½% 2004-08	138		9.88	7.44
112	101	Treas 9% 2008	110	..	8.12	7.64
103	94	Treas 8% 2009	102		7.79	7.68
LONGS (over 15 years)						
87	79	Treas 6¼% 2010	86	...	7.22	7.78
112	101	Conv 9% 2011	110 †	..	8.12	7.79
112	102	Treas 9% 2012	111		8.10	7.78
82	72	Treas 5½% 2008-12	81		6.78	7.52
103	93	Treas 8% 2013	101		7.85	7.79
101	91	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	99 †		7.77	7.82
104	93	Treas 8% 2015	102		7.84	7.79
111	100	Treas 8¾% 2017	109		8.00	7.84
141	127	Exch 12% 2013-17	139		8.63	7.89
UNDATED						
45	40	War Ln 3½%	44	...	7.84	..
31	28	Treas 2½%	31		7.98	...
50	45	Consols 4%	49 †		8.08	..
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					10%	5%
215	201	Treas IL 2% 1996	216½		.	1.69
112	106	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	112		1.81	2.47
179	165	Treas IL 2½% 2001	178	...	2.81	3.29
175	161	Treas IL 2½% 2003	174	...	3.02	3.39
115	106	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	115		3.04	3.28
184	169	Treas IL 2% 2006	183 †		3.16	3.42
169	152	Treas IL 2½% 2009	166		3.25	3.47
173	157	Treas IL 2½% 2011	172		3.30	3.50
142	129	Treas IL 2½% 2013	141		3.36	3.53
152	137	Treas IL 2½% 2016	150 †		3.41	3.56
146	131	Treas IL 2½% 2020	144		3.46	3.60
122	109	Treas IL 2½% 2024	120 †		3.46	3.59
120	109	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	119 †		3.47	3.60

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@ USM. # Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. ... No significant data. ‡ Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 index.

هكذا من الأصل

TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD 01895 259 783				
Grofund Accs	198.20	209.00	− 0.09	0.18
Grofund Equity	274.50	282.00	+ 1.10	2.01
Grofund Extra	249.20	252.87	+ 1.30	1.17
Grofund Expt Inc	126.30	130.90	...	0.81
Grofund Gilt	76.85	79.22	− 0.25	4.71
Grofund Japan	179.40	189.00	− 2.80	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS 01203 553 231				
General Acc	636.90	671.20	+ 0.69	2.54
General Inc	542.00	578.59	+ 0.59	2.54
UK Growth Acc	428.10	453.40	+ 1.06	2.74
UK Growth Inc	363.90	382.10	+ 0.90	2.74
Higher Inc Acc	778.90	828.80	+ 0.58	4.09
Higher Inc Inc	439.40	461.10	+ 0.30	4.09
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	206.80	218.47	− 0.50	5.49
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	95.08	100.40	− 0.26	5.49
Nth America	332.40	353.70	− 1.98	..
Europe	329.20	350.30	− 0.50	0.63
Brit Excell	85.53	90.99	+ 0.34	2.86
Brit Fxdsfls Acc	113.20	120.50		4.67
Brit Fxdsfls Inc	79.30	84.37	+ 0.01	4.67
Global Opps	97.57	103.60	− 0.49	0.28
Balanced Acc	61.56	65.49	− 0.00	2.78
Balanced Inc	58.90	62.67	− 0.03	2.78
Japan Acc	48.17	51.25	− 0.72	...
Pac Basin Acc	397.80	423.20	− 0.60	0.99
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS 0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	132.00	140.00†	− 0.80	7.14
High Inc Equity	177.80	189.30†	+ 1.10	4.45
Worldwide Bond	292.00	309.50	...	4.52
American Growth	331.90	354.00†	− 2.10	0.36
Asian Pacific	331.10	354.10	+ 0.48	0.14
Assets & Earnings	380.30	398.80	+ 1.50	2.77
Euro Capital Acc	165.70	177.20	+ 0.80	0.59
Extra Inc	44.79	47.65†	+ 0.15	8.44
General	267.40	284.50	+ 0.70	2.89
Global Opps	61.25	65.16	+ 0.02	0.48
Japan	128.08	136.90	− 1.90	...
Managed Inc	47.85	50.91†	+ 0.18	4.57
Mastertrust	158.20	169.20	− 0.10	1.47
US Emerging Cos	171.50	182.40	− 1.10	...
Ethical	76.66	81.55	+ 0.24	2.42
International	130.80	139.20	− 0.38	0.57
Dividend & Growth	65.87	70.07†	+ 0.37	4.38
Global Gwth & Sec	71.36	76.03	− 0.01	2.67
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	1980.00	2085.00	...	...
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	55.01	57.13	− 0.21	0.54
Cash	50.23	50.23†	...	5.82
Emerging Mkts	68.05	72.16	− 0.38	0.05
European	130.98	136.18	− 0.10	...
Exempt	1018.90	1090.70†	+ 3.10	1.71
Extra Income #	48.27	51.85†	− 0.01	6.56
Far East Emg Ecn	124.20	130.49	...	8.49
Fixed Interest #	23.86	24.85	+ 0.01	9.45
Fixed Int Tst	162.60	170.70†	+ 0.30	9.11
Japan	180.10	196.70	− 2.50	...
Latin American	51.70	54.16	+ 0.01	0.90
Pacific	83.51	87.88	− 0.23	0.30
Property Share	63.37	66.52†	+ 0.22	2.84
UK Emerging Cos	68.73	73.22†	+ 0.07	1.69
UK Growth	49.79	52.71	+ 0.08	2.23
Abtr World Port #	79.19	83.66	− 0.09	2.08
Ethical	74.52	77.58†	− 0.11	2.27
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.98	50.98†	− 0.08	7.38

For AEGON see Matheson

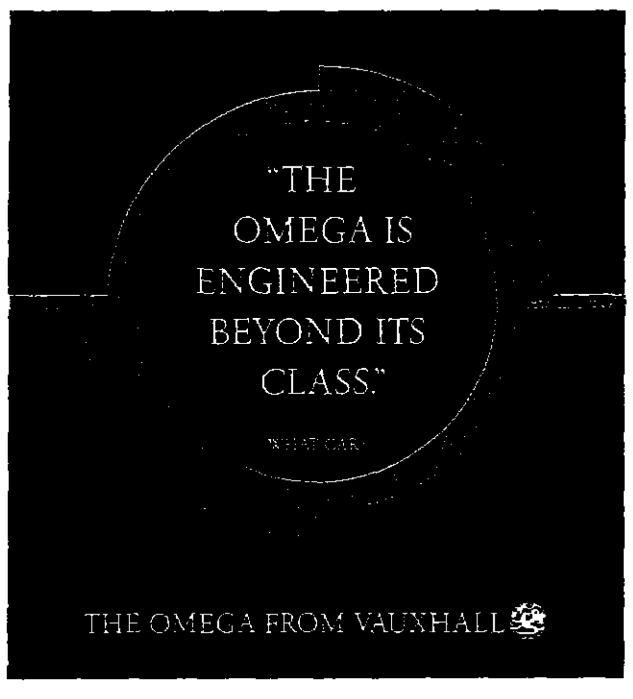
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 256 5088

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	95.37	101.84†	+ 0.20	2.51
American Portfolio	112.71	119.31†	+ 0.12	0.50
European Portfolio	113.68	121.32	+ 0.41	0.47
High Income	52.38	52.48	+ 0.08	8.80
Japanese Portfolio	71.04	75.53†	− 0.96	...
Pacific Portfolio	152.58	164.07†	+ 0.88	1.35
UK Inc & Growth	89.91	96.11	+ 0.35	2.94
Utility & Bond	57.61	58.31	+ 0.17	6.54
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG 0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	727.59	738.58	...	4.38
Fxd Int Sec	159.31	158.85	...	9.00
COIF CHARITY FUNDS 0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	726.57	737.55	...	4.39
Investment Acc	632.40	632.85	...	...
Fixed Int Inc	127.47	127.98	...	8.89
Fixed Int Acc	216.90	217.76	...	...
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD 0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	94.72	98.85	...	2.07
Beck Bio-Tech	47.10	50.73†		
Acorn Ethical Tst	182.49	177.83†	...	0.63
City Fin Assets	77.94	81.04	+ 0.67	2.04
City Fin America	108.42	113.85	...	
City Fin Intl	89.85	94.35	...	0.87
City Fin Japan	151.42	159.00†	...	...
Frans Hse Cap	297.85	321.42†	+ 7.25	2.27
Frans Hse Inc	197.14	208.72	− 2.34	4.24
Buckley Wrld Gth	140.22	148.63	...	...
Fairwnd Cap Gth	145.49	153.15	...	
Fosmount Intl	158.04	164.25	...	...
J Sml Inc/Gth Inc	55.73	58.52†	...	2.44
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	55.66	58.27	+ 0.41	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD. 0800 373 393				
American Gwth	73.69	78.33	− 0.82	...
Dragon Growth	71.02	75.95	− 0.18	0.78
Equity High Inc	89.54	95.26†	+ 0.12	3.95
-do- Accum	125.16	133.15	+ 0.18	3.95
Extra Income Inc	26.50	27.58†	− 0.09	7.21
Extra Income Acc	27.59	29.47	− 0.10	7.21
European Gwth	59.20	62.98	− 0.03	1.03
Evergreen	29.85	31.82	− 0.04	...
General Equity	96.69	102.79	+ 0.21	2.84
Japan Growth	53.66	57.08	− 0.46	
Portfolio Gwth	58.47	62.20	+ 0.08	2.58
Prof Sm Cos Inc	34.09	36.25	+ 0.05	1.56
-do- Accum	35.89	38.18	+ 0.08	1.56
Balanced Inc #	27.45	29.20	+ 0.08	5.72
Special Sits	43.14	45.89	− 0.05	2.14
UK & Overseas	55.89	59.41	− 0.38	0.73
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD 01634 888 000				
Capital	77.88	80.29	+ 0.14	1.69
Balanced	88.85	89.63	+ 0.09	4.04
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD 0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	178.89	188.29	− 0.08	4.65
Fixed & Convertible	41.95	43.87†	+ 0.08	6.74
Monthly Inc Plus	49.83	53.01	− 0.11	8.45
Preference Share	45.57	48.48†	− 1.48	7.84
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	132.36	140.81†	− 0.14	5.77
Managed Fund	74.92	79.78	− 0.18	2.05
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	44.15	46.97	+ 0.02	1.73
-do- Accum	51.39	54.67	+ 0.03	1.73
UK & General	89.89	95.63	− 0.02	2.67
-do- Accum	115.37	122.73	− 0.08	2.67
UK Growth	170.57	181.46	+ 1.38	2.23

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD 0171 581 3020				
World Health	209.70	223.00	− 2.50	
Income	189.88	202.00†	+ 0.56	4.29
UK Growth	74.74	79.51†	+ 0.17	0.44
International	82.96	88.25	+ 0.35	0.07
Ecology	93.28	99.23	+ 0.26	1.08
European	149.35	158.88	+ 0.90	
Far Eastern	316.90	337.10	− 3.50	
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	100.90	104.30†	...	7.37
Gilt Yield	119.60	126.20†	...	6.74

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
N Amer Growth	122.74	130.37	− 0.62	0.74
Special Sits Growth	24.63	26.20	+ 0.14	2.18
UK Growth	424.38	451.46	+ 2.25	2.70
-do- Accum	569.80	605.10	+ 3.01	2.70
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD 01920 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1443.50	1467.00		2.90
Income #	1036.10	1054.20†		4.10
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	158.10	162.20		3.72

For Manulife see Canada Life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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Global Income	228.00	242.60		3.57
High Yield	146.70	156.10†		5.74
-do- Accum	456.90	486.70†		5.74
Smllr Cos Div	56.77	60.39		2.84
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	126.99	135.00	..	..
Asian Growth	345.40	367.40		0.22
-do- Accum	405.98	431.80		0.22
North American	97.42	103.60†		0.25
European Special	117.00	124.50	..	0.10
European	169.00	179.88†	..	0.45
-do- Accum	222.98	237.10†	..	0.45
Global Eqty Inc	117.10	124.30		2.87
Japan	441.80	469.10	..	..
Japanese Special	226.70	257.80		...
Smaller Cos	125.90	133.90†		1.14
UK Equity Growth	45.71	48.63	..	1.52
UK Index Inc	317.00	318.60	..	3.41
Windsor Tst	104.50	112.90	+ 2.20	2.74

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD 01244 680 066				
M & S Inv Ptflo	169.30	178.20†	+ 0.06	2.11
-do- Accum	198.70	209.10†	+ 0.05	2.11
UK Sel Ptflo	149.10	155.90†	+ 0.32	2.43
-do- Accum	176.00	185.20†	+ 0.32	2.43
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD 01204 384 842				
Managed Tst	74.85	79.63		3.55
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD 0131 479 4646				
Intl Income	80.52	85.48†	+ 0.13	4.01
European	95.58	101.50	+ 0.30	1.12
Income #	80.83	85.81	+ 0.29	4.92
Nth American	81.16	86.16	+ 0.02	0.43
Far East	178.00	189.00	− 0.80	0.05
Japan	62.59	65.44	− 1.07	..

مكامن الأمل

Cautious optimism on 1996 prospects

BY RODNEY HOBSON

BRITISH owner-managed businesses are cautiously optimistic about prospects for 1996, according to the fourth annual European business survey by Grant Thornton, the business adviser.

Just over half expect to increase profits, the highest level of optimism in the European Union, while a third believe that they will take on more staff.

Expectations for exporting are still buoyant, with hopes rising for the third consecutive year. However, the survey found that 42 per cent of UK small and medium businesses intended to raise selling prices, while 69 per cent of German and 71 per cent of their French counterparts thought they would hold prices steady, or even cut them.

Andrew Godfrey, head of growth and development services at Grant Thornton, said: "Despite uncertainty about what the future may hold in the political arena, with a general election looming, business people in the UK are holding their own and are significantly more positive than their French and German counterparts."

He added: "The main area for concern is rising prices. If UK selling prices increase, the competitive edge which British exports currently have over countries like Germany and France, with the currently favourable exchange rates, could be lost."

☐ Against a backdrop of a stable economy, falling unemployment and lower tax levels, 41 per cent of owner-managed firms expanded in 1995, the Forum of Private Business said. However, it complained that the Government had failed to curb the damage caused by the uniform business rate, the black economy, red tape and unfair competition.

The forum also attacked the Government for failure to introduce a statutory right to interest on late payments. "It is no longer tenable for government to hide behind the excuse that the CBI, representing minority big businesses, disagrees with the FPB, representing the majority of smaller businesses. The 17-year failure of this Government to find a workable deterrent against late payment is a shameful record."

"Forget happy — just make sure you have a prosperous new year!"

Right recipe for success

David Askham

visits a village business that came about by popular demand

DAVID ASKHAM

Using their loaf: Debbie and Jean Sheard outside the village bakery at Lacock, Wiltshire

Competition was strong when retail premises became available in Lacock, a National Trust village in Wiltshire. An empty shop there is a rare event and more than 100 applicants showed interest.

A village survey showed people wanted a bakery most. Three bakers applied but Jean Sheard won because she planned to bake bread on the premises.

The National Trust approved and Lacock Bakery was formed in the depth of recession. Three years on, turnover has grown at an annual rate of more than 25 per cent.

Mrs Sheard says: "I had always been interested in cooking and had previously operated a part-time bakery business from my bungalow. I made birthday cakes, traditional biscuits and health foods for local people, hotels and restaurants. The demand grew to the point where I felt the need to operate from bigger premises. It was a big step from that to waking up one morning knowing I now had to bake fresh bread for the whole village." Planning constraints mean baking cannot begin before 7am, so there is an early-morning scramble to have the first loaves ready for sale at 9am.

While waiting for planning permission, Mrs Sheard, who had completed a business studies course, researched professional baking machinery and the quantities of ingredients needed for large-scale production. "We went to see a bakery at Safeway's supermarket in Devizes where they were very helpful. We found out that people in the village yearned for traditional country baking."

Apart from an enterprise allowance during the first year and a three-year interest-free loan from the Royal British Legion to help her to buy ovens and specialist baking equipment — Mrs Sheard is an ex-Wren — working capital has come entirely from her own resources.

Her family also gave her strong support. Paul, her son, discovered some old shelf units which were stripped, finished and placed in the shop. Her eldest daughter Jacqui, of the Sheard & Hudson graphics studio in London, designed labels and a sign for the shop. The new bakery opened in February 1992 with Mrs Sheard's youngest daughter, Debbie, helping full-time.

Home-baked bread is the main product but bread pudding is a big seller and Lacock lardy cakes are also a great favourite, drawing customers from miles away.

BRIEFINGS

JOHN NOAKES, former presenter of *Blue Peter* on BBC1, will head a Department of Trade and Industry advertising campaign to turn inventions into commercial success stories. He will promote this year's Smart awards, to be launched next Monday. Smart awards of up to £45,000 are made to individuals or firms with up to 50 employees to fund the testing of a new technological idea. If the feasibility study is successful, the company can seek further help to develop a prototype under the DTI's Spur scheme.

Entry forms for the 1996 awards are available from Smart 1996, Freepost NT1231, Newcastle upon Tyne X, NE85 2BR.

☐ The final date for entries for the third annual Winning Businesses Awards, run by Securicor Cellular Services and the Federation of Small Businesses, is January 31. Contestants must write in 300 words why they deserve recognition in one of four areas — creative promotions and marketing; customer care; financial policy and innovation. Six regional finalists in each category will receive a cellular phone and an electronic organiser; every category winner will receive £500. The overall winner — Small Business of the Year — will receive £2,000. Details: 01908 696169.

☐ London Chamber of Commerce is running a seminar on VAT for small and medium businesses on January 18. The seminar costs £15 plus VAT for members and £25 plus VAT for guests and is sponsored by Grant Thornton. Contact Melanie Dewitt on 0171-203 1875.

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■ VISUAL ART 1

Provocation in bulk: a famous collection of Schiele's work goes on show in Düsseldorf

■ VISUAL ART 2

Something for the pilgrims: a new centre for contemporary art opens in Santiago de Compostela

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ VISUAL ART 3

Unfashionable virtues and haunting vision are exhibited in Christopher Bramham's show

■ TOMORROW

An image of elitism? The cameras come to Covent Garden as it struggles to justify its millions

In Germany, **Richard Cork** marvels at a definitive exhibition of Egon Schiele; plus other shows abroad and at home

A short life, but a great one

Dying at the age of 28, Egon Schiele never proved that he was more than an astonishingly precocious talent. But by succumbing to the calamitous Spanish flu epidemic of 1918, he remained eerily faithful to his central obsession as an artist. For the overriding theme of his work, from teenage years through to the end, is mortality. Schiele was incapable of looking at the human form without becoming anxiously and yet fiercely conscious of extinction.

Far from lapsing into morbidity, he knew how to let this grim preoccupation energise his art. Paradoxically, his awareness of the grave sparked his imagination into life. It ensured that the exhibition of more than 150 paintings, watercolours and drawings at the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen in Düsseldorf is fuelled by a swift, assured and often exuberant dynamism.

For the first time in Europe, the full extent of Rudolf Leopold's legendary Schiele collection is here on display. It adds up to a bracing experience, not least because Leopold has never been afraid to acquire the toughest and most controversial examples of Schiele's prolific output.

Although he discovered his individual outlook at an unusually early age, Schiele owed a large debt to Gustav Klimt. The latter's willingness to simplify and flatten, claiming the right to improvise with colour in an almost musical way, liberated the adolescent Schiele. He introduced himself to Klimt while still a student in Vienna, and benefited hugely from the older man's encouragement.

But if his style was influenced by Klimt, he lost little time in defining his own vision. Klimt rejoiced in the peacock elegance of his impeccably fashionable female sitters. Even his melancholy symbolism becomes decorative, and unashamed hedonism nourishes his languorous drawings of the nude. However much he learnt from Klimt's audacity, Schiele looked on the world with a harsher eye.

> 6 Schiele's awareness of the grave sparked his imagination into life 9

As early as 1908, his drawing of a naked man viewed from behind stresses emaciation rather than sensuality. Typically, he makes the unknown model bend right over and stare back at us, face upside-down. The startling informality of the pose is countered by the harshness with which Schiele defines the projecting spine. He always searched for the skeleton beneath the skin, and never relinquished his governing interest in the violence of line.

Never content to let his sitters adopt conventional poses, Schiele asked them to take up ever more arresting attitudes. This insistence sometimes seems unsparing, especially when children are depicted and he discloses their nakedness with alarming frankness.

Schiele's most direct images of juvenile models led to his arrest and imprisonment in 1912, charged with pornographic indecency. But the truth is that he viewed the young with the same astringency he trained on adults.

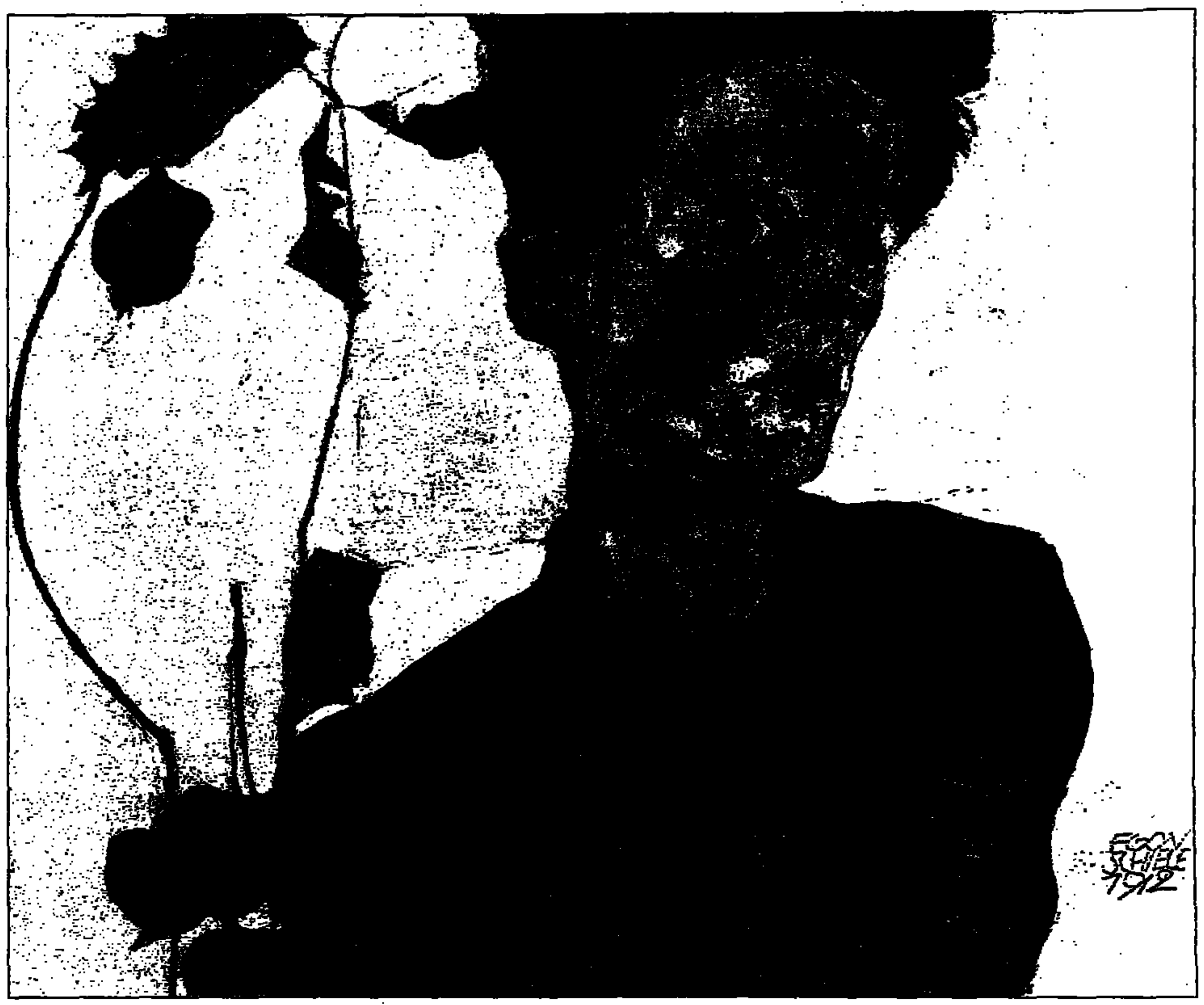
The two stages of life are powerfully brought together in a series of watercolours called *Mother and Daughter*, where girl and woman embrace each other so fervently that they seem on the point of fusing into a single figure. Schiele exposes their blanched attenuation, and alleviates it only with ferocious gashes of scarlet on the mother's lips and cheek.

Moreover, anyone who accuses him of exploiting his models' vulnerability should remember how Schiele scrutinised his own body. Time and again he gazed in the mirror, motivated not only by narcissism but also, more significantly, by an urge to see himself as the quintessence of bare frailty.

Despite the heroic size of his 1910 seated self-portrait, the figure defined there is painfully gaunt. Hip and shoulder bones jut out like sharply pointed rocks from the contours outlined with such abrasive precision on the canvas. Stripped of everything save a meagre coating of flesh, Schiele looks positively flayed as he lurches to the side. With one wiry arm defensively hugging his neck, he seems to anticipate an assault. The absence of a visible seat accentuates his instability, and the emptiness of the surrounding white space makes him appear utterly isolated.

Even here, at the age of 20, Schiele knew exactly what to leave out. His grasp of pictorial economy often has an oriental flavour, suggesting an intelligent interest in Japanese prints. But the anxiety reflected clearly in his work is unmistakably Viennese, a product of the same fascination with psychological tensions that fired Sigmund Freud's pioneering investigations.

Wherever we look in this relentless show, humanity seems to be *in extremis*. Self-conscious figures, aware of being watched, claw at the air with talon-like fingers or contort their limbs in positions eloquent of strain and suffering. Sometimes they protest too much: the gestures become melodramatic, and Schiele is guilty of turning disquiet into a mannerism. More often than not, though, his formidable rigour prevents the images from sliding towards self-indulgence.



Self-portrait with winter cherries **(1912) illustrates the stark focus which Schiele applied to all his depictions of the human form**

Take *The Hermits*, the grandest painting on view here. Schiele, shown full-length, occupies the centre of the canvas. His hollowed-out, down-turned face frowns out at us, his black eyes taking on a peculiarly diabolic air. Thorns crown his head, a symbol of suffering so obvious that it could easily have degenerated into self-pity. But the presence of an older, bearded man close behind him, resting his head on Schiele's shoulder as if from terminal fatigue, gives the painting an unexpected tension. So does the decision to swathe both figures in black robes, lending the picture an austerity that somehow cancels out the threat of overheated emotionalism.

To judge by the prodigious amount of art he produced, Schiele must have been an exceptionally disciplined and hard-working young man. Admittedly his innate facility helped him to achieve impressive results with the minimum amount of fuss: many of these deft, single-minded drawings look as if they were produced very quickly indeed.

Most of the paintings, though, betray signs of considerable labour. Obliterated earlier versions are detectable beneath the final, worried-over layers of pigment, and the deserted townscapes in particular must be the result of great deliberation.

In this respect, Schiele was well-equipped to benefit from a long, industrious career. But before we lament his untimely loss, the change in his final phase of work ought to make us pause. Marriage coincided with a softening of both style and outlook. Some of the demonic energy seeps out of his art in 1918, and two unfinished paintings of female nudes are surprisingly feeble.

If he had lived, Schiele might well have become complacent, slick and dull. But death, an unseen yet omnipresent force in all his finest work, made sure that he was never able to betray his youthful brilliance.

● *Egon Schiele is at the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf (0049 211 83 81-0) until Mar 10*

A question of lights and death

An ancient Spanish church provides a spectacular setting for modern art, says John Russell Taylor

Not so much has changed since pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela were expected to arrive on their knees, clutching their scallop shells. Admittedly the pilgrims now tend to arrive in tour buses, but visually most of the historic centre has been kept intact. And where the modern world has decided to intrude, the intervention is made with taste and enterprise.

The most notable recent example is the new Centro Galego de Arte Contemporanea, which opened last year with an exhibition devoted to the work of its architect, the fashionable and highly imaginative Portuguese, Alvaro Siza.

The Centro complex is right on the edge of the conservation area, next to the Gothic church of San Domingos de Bonavel and its adjoining monastery, now the Museo du Pobo Galego. From the outside, the Centro is an irregular block of white stone, a huge modern sculpture dropped down on a plinth and just glimpsed from the bottom of a small rise, where the old town effectively ends. As you approach the Centro, it is gradually revealed, but what you are mainly aware of is San Domingos straight ahead.

It is therefore obvious at once that something extraordinary is going on in the largely disused church: that something proves to be a new exhibition/installation organised by the Centro, the first of a series which will invite various contemporary artists to do what they will with the spectacular space of the church's interior.

The first artist to make use of this great new resource, added to the other great new resource of the Centro's main building, is Christian Boltanski. The show he has devised is called *Advento*, which makes brilliant play of several familiar elements of his art as well as adding some new.

Anyone who has ever seen a Boltanski show will expect those faded, period snapshots of children from the 1940s, each with its accompanying illumination suggesting a sort of votive candle. Sure enough, most of the main walls in the vestibule, nave and transepts are scattered with them, this time with the wiring for the lights meandering from unit to unit in such a way that the whole thing evokes one of those medieval wall-paintings of the family of man or the generations of Israel. There are also a couple of partitions made up of that other old Boltanski prop, the rusting biscuit tins which suggest compartments in a crematorium.

But look down, and you see something very different. At a glance it suggests Boltanski's notorious marshalling of old clothes, which visitors were requested to carry off for their own uses at the Serpentine recently. But this is much more orderly: overcoats in a variety of cheery colours are laid out over the nave floor in a regular pattern which evokes visions of monks in oblation, facing the altar. (Except that the apse holds no altar, but a clutter of boxes under dust sheets, not even illuminated after dark.)

Boltanski explains that the coats are intended for Sarajevo, and at the close of the show will be transported there in a fleet of cars, one to each car: a concept evidently stronger on symbolism than on practicality. Look right up, and on the ceiling of the north transept there is a shadow-show, *à la javanais*, of angel shapes circling the dome.

As usual, it is all about death. But, even more, it is about transience, and the way that, if forgetting abolishes, remembering inevitably transforms. In the context of Santiago, and specifically of this historic building, the question must arise, "But is it art?" Boltanski is quite sanguine about that one: "Don't tell them that what they are looking at is supposed to be art. Never let the word 'art' raise its ugly head." It is just a mysterious, evocative experience that visitors are offered, and what, if anything, they choose to call it is their concern.

Works of art bound for a useful life in Sarajevo: Boltanski's overcoats spread across the nave floor like prostrate monks

In any case, evidently with the Centro in their midst, consistently pursuing the propagation of the contemporary, the inhabitants of Santiago de Compostela will soon become accustomed to it, even if they are not already. In the Centro itself there is another exhibition — also conceptual, also visually stunning — called *A Possible Landscape* by the New York-based Felix Gonzalez-Torres, which again concerns memory and death, evoking in a variety of ways, direct and indirect, the materials of the artist's life story and the death from an AIDS-related illness of his lover.

Gonzalez-Torres also spills out over the town, with many strategically placed billboards featuring without explanation his brooding black-and-white photographs of birds against a threatening sky.

What is impressive about the whole thing is the compliance, even enthusiasm, of the local authorities. Possibly the Centro may be considered fortunate in being able to call for support not only on the Spanish State, but also on the municipality and the autonymous government of Galicia, prominent representatives of which were present at the opening. One fears that an analagous situation in Britain, could it exist, would probably lead to a wholesale passing of bucks.

● *Both shows are at the new Centro Galego de Arte Contemporanea, Valle Inclan, Santiago de Compostela, Galicia (0034 81-546621) until March*

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[illegible] GALLERIES

Christopher Bramham is a painter with all the great unfashionable virtues which make for artistic longevity. Now in his early forties, he paints mainly urban landscapes, Richmond Park being about as far as he usually ventures out into the wilds, as well as the odd interior and still-life. His colour range is deliberately subdued: the greens are generally greyish, under leaden skies, and if the sun does shine its effect is likely to be bleaching rather than irradiating. Why, then, is there something so haunting about these apparently drab scenes, particularly favouring the small areas of struggling nature hemmed in by railway lines? No doubt it has a lot to do with the sheer intensity of Bramham's vision, his delight at seeing the vegetable world winning through against all odds. Then there is the confident, unobtrusive skill of his craftsmanship, which brings him closest, perhaps, to the Lucian Freud of the Paddington pictures. A quiet talent, but one that comes through loud and clear.
Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Albemarle Street, London W1 (0171-629 5161) until Jan 26

☐ Chris Beetles's annual winter shows of originals by British illustrators from the 18th century onwards have become an institution, if not a national treasure. This year the standard is as high as ever. Of course, not all illustrators are to the taste of all collectors, but the sheer variety of art on show is so enormous that only the very hard-to-please could find nothing to interest them. The usual favourites are still out in force: Rackham, Heath Robinson and Peake make a good show on their own, before one progresses to the lesser known, but often equally deserving. One contemporary of Rackham who deserves to be much better known is Edmund J. Sullivan (1869-1933), who had the curious distinction of teaching the teenage Hitchcock how to draw and, more importantly, how to go straight for the dramatic point of any composition. The drawings from his brilliant satire *The Kaiser's Garland* (1915) indicate a feeling for the macabre which cannot have gone amiss with the future creator of *Psycho*. A later illustrator who comes out very well is James Boswell, whose work instantly inspires a flash nostalgia for the chic and swinging 1960s, while among our own contemporaries Larry establishes a new corner for himself with a series of cartoons in which dogs are inserted into great paintings of the past. Who would have guessed that the infant Jesus in Millais's famous picture of Joseph's workshop looks so miserable because he has just been bitten by the family retriever?
Chris Beetles, 10 Ryder Street, London SW1 (0171-839 7551), until Jan 19, then a compact version for another month

☐ Although hardly ever taken seriously as an artist by serious people, Rowland Hilder was always able to map out his own territory in the English landscape and lay a claim to it that no other could rival. Perhaps his most distinctive skill was in the depiction of leafless trees in winter, their elegant tracery picked out against a frosty blue sky. Throughout his long life (1905-1993) he also had a special affinity with the sea and seafarers — he was one of the best illustrators of *Treasure Island* — and took great delight in the simple flowers of the English countryside, as in his Shell Guide to the subject. He was an eloquent watercolourist, although perhaps more in the line of coloured drawings than in the broad washes favoured by the purist, and always an incisive draughtsman. This show, drawn from the artist's studio, strongly suggests that a reappraisal is in order.
Duncan Campbell, 15 Thackeray Street, London W8 (0171-937 8665), until Feb 2

☐ The Friends Room of the Royal Academy, just off the main entrance, is one of the lesser-known selling spaces of London. But the present show is well worth seeking out. In a faint echo of the Africa show on in the main galleries, it presents a selection of Kuba raffia textiles, mostly made since 1950, although following a form and tradition which goes back at least to the 17th century. The Kuba are a people of Zaire, and their cloths are mainly woven from palm raffia. The designs are largely geometric, the results timeless: if one were assured that the designers were trained at the Bauhaus, one would hardly doubt the truth of the statement.
Friends Room, Royal Academy, Piccadilly, London W1 (0171-494 5668) until Jan 18

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

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BRITISH MUSEUM
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London WC1
Until 11 February 1996
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Sunday 2.30-5.50
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Recorded information 0171-580 1788

■ CHOICE 1

Corazon Flamenco brings a swirl of Spanish colour to London

VENUE: From tonight at Sadler's Wells

■ CHOICE 2

A double dose of Britten's songs from top British singers

VENUE: Tonight at the Wigmore Hall

THE TIMES ARTS

■ OPERA 1

Wit and tragedy mix happily as Phyllida Lloyd returns to revive her superb *Bohème*

■ OPERA 2

. . . while Philip Prowse touches up his gaudy staging of *The Pearl Fishers* at the Coliseum

LONDON

EXOTICS AT THE WELLS: London is treated to two colourful dance programmes at Sadler's Wells to start the new year. Encouraged by four sell-out seasons of his Cumbre Flamenca troupe, Francisco Grajera has formed the larger Corazon Flamenco, and arrives for a double-bill of Spanish gypsy dance dramas: the London premiere of *Noche de Santiago* and the world premiere of *Lo Mas Hondo*. Over at the Lilian Baylis, Wendy Buonaventura and Jacqueline Jamal in *Dancing Girls* return by popular demand for another week of their fascinating evocation of Arabian travellers' tales over the years.
Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (0171-713 6000). Flamenco: Mon-Fri, 7.30pm; Sat, 3pm and 8pm. Until Feb 10. Dancing Girls: Tonight-Sat, 7.45pm ♿

BRITTEN SONGS: The Wigmore's series goes from strength to strength, with a double-header tonight. Countertenor Michael Chance, Adrian Thompson, Paul Robinson and pianist Julius Drake open with a programme focusing on Britten and Purcell, followed by soprano Joan Rodgers and pianist Malcolm Martineau (Britten and Russia).
Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 6pm and 9pm ♿

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

ELSEWHERE

COLCHESTER: Nick Hornby's **Fever Pitch**, adapted by Paul Hodson, takes to the road again. Tom Watt stars as the totally obsessed Arsenal fan for a 20-city tour, including four brave days (Feb 12-15) playing at Leicester City Football Club.
Mercury, Balkerne Gate (01206-573 948). Tonight and Wed, 7.30pm; Thurs and Fri, 8pm; Sat, 6pm and 9pm.

HIGH WYCOMBE: Last week of performances for Millicent Martin, whooping it up as the Wicked Queen in **Snow White**.
Wycombe Swan (01494 512000). Tonight-Sat, 7pm; mats today-Thurs, 2pm and Sat, 2.30pm ♿

PRESTON: Vernon Handley conducts the **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra** in an eclectic programme of Bliss's suite, *Things to Come*, Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No 1 and Vaughan Williams's Symphony No 7, *Antartica*.
Guildhall, Lancaster Road ♿ (01772 258858). Rpt tomorrow, **Liverpool**, Philharmonic Hall ♿ (0151-709 3789). Both at 7.30pm

LEATHERHEAD: Last week of performances too for bah-humbug and Christmas ghosts, as Richard Todd plays Scrooge in **A Christmas Carol**.
Thorndike (01372-377 677). Tonight-Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 4pm and 8pm; mat Wed, 2.30pm ♿

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum: Westminster Kings and the Medieval Palace of Westminster; Okyo and Kyoto paintings 1770-1910 *(0171-636 1555)* **Hayward:** Art and Power: Europe under the dictators 1930-1945 (071-928 3144) **National Gallery:** Gods in Love: the Caracci Cartoons Restored, final week (0171-747 2885) **National Portrait Gallery:** Lure of the Limelight; Richard and Maria Cosway *(0171-306 0055)* **Royal Academy:** Africa: Art of a Continent; David Hockney Drawing Retrospective (0171-439 7438) **Tate:** The Art of War 1939-45; Dynasties: Paintings in Tudor and Jacobean England (0171-887 8000) **V & A:** Jain Art from India; Design Now: San Lorenzo Silversmiths Studio, Milan (0171-938 8500) **Whitechapel:** Emil Nolde (0171-522 7888)

☐ **BETJEMANIA:** Musical review based on the works of John Betjeman. Revised version of the 1970s show by *David Benedictus (words) and John Gould (music)*.
King's Head, Upper Street, N1 (0171-226 1916). Previews begin tonight, 8pm; opens Jan 12, 7.30pm, until Feb 18 ♿

☐ **DEAD FUNNY:** Belinda Lang, Kevin McNally and Sam Kelly in Terry Johnson's sharply funny play about comics and some of their fans.
Savoy, *The Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888)*. Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5pm ♿

☐ **THE DUCHESS OF MALFI:** Anastasia Hille plays the beleaguered heroine in Cheek by Jowl's extraordinary new production.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1746). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm

◪ **GOLDHAWK ROAD:** New Simon Bent play: the sexual deeds of his youth catch up with the former driver of a luxury coach, now facing his end not far from this very theatre. Paul Miller directs.
Bush, Shepherd's Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm, until Feb 3

☐ **HYSTERIA:** Henry Goodman plays Freud, with Tim Potter as Salvador Dali, in Terry Johnson's surreal double award-winner. The funniest serious play in London.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

- ■ **House full, returns only**
- ◪ **Some seats available**
- ☐ **Seats at all prices**

Duke of Yorks, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Mon-Sat, *7.30pm*, mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm ♿

◪ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS:** Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 8.15pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm

◪ **SALTIMBANCO:** Admired by such as Robin Williams, Bill Clinton and *Madonna, the Montreal-based Cirque du Soleil* finally arrives. Forty-five performers (actors, dancers, acrobats), brilliant costumes, no animals.
Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tue-Sun, 7.45pm; mats Sat and Sun, 2.30pm ♿

■ **SON OF MAN:** Dennis Potter's story of the life of Christ (Joseph Fiennes): religious rebel. Strong acting, good design, unclear purpose.
Pit, Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.15pm ♿

☐ **VOLPONE:** Michael Gambon subtle and fascinating in the title role, ably supported by Simon Russell Beale as *his wily sidekick*.
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Today, 2pm and 7.15pm ♿

☐ **VOYAGE IN THE DARK:** Jean Rhys's 1934 novel, shocking when it first *appeared*, adapted by Joan Wiles for the Sphinx company. A naive beauty enters the nightclub world of the demi-monde. Sue Parrish directs.
Young Vic Studio, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Previews tonight and tomorrow; opens Jan 11, all at 7.30pm

◪ **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS:** Jeremy Sinden plays the ebullient Toad in the now annual return of the National Theatre production. Still delightful.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 6655). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm ♿

LONG RUNNERS

☐ ***Blood Brothers***: *Phoenix (0171-867 1044)* ☐ **Dead Guilty**: Apollo (0171-494 5070) ☐ **Fame: The Musical**: Cambridge (0171-494 5083) ☐ **Five Guys Named Moe**: Albery (0171-369 1730) ◪ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) ■ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) ◪ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (0171-344 0055) ☐ **The Woman in Black**: *Fortune (0171-836 2238)*

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

NEW RELEASES

ALL MEN ARE MORTAL (15): Dull Europudding from Simone de Beauvoir's novel about love and immortality, with Irène Jacob and Stephen Rea. Director, Ate de Jong.
MGMs: Fulham Road ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

THE HORSEMAN ON THE ROOF (15): Love and heroism amidst a cholera epidemic in 1830s Provence. Pretty *pictures, but little oomph*. Jean-Paul Rappeneau directs Olivier Martinez and Juliette Binoche.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Curzon Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **Odeon Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** (0171-435 3366)

THE KINGDOM: Breezy medical soap opera made for Danish TV by cult director Lars von Trier.
ICA ♿ (0171-930 3647)

◆ **SEVEN** (18): Unsettling and off-beat serial killer thriller, with Morgan Freeman and Brad Pitt. Director, David Fincher.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Gate** ♿ (0171-727 4043) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

◆ **SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT** (15): Julia Roberts as a southern wife facing her husband's infidelity. Talky tale with small pleasures. Lasse Hallström directs Dennis Quaid, Robert Duvall, Kyra Sedgwick, Gena Rowlands.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Notting Hill Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

◆ **ACE VENTURA: WHEN NATURE CALLS** (PG): Overbearing vehicle for rubber-faced Jim Carrey, clown among African tribes. Director, Steve Oedekerk.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT** (15): *What happens when the widowed President gets a girlfriend? Not much, even with Michael Douglas and Annette Bening. Director, Rob Reiner.*
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **BABE** (U): Glorious, vivacious family film about a sheep-herding pig, with a cast of talking animals.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Empire** ♿ (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) ***Fulham Road*** *(0171-370 2636)* **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 098) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

THE BROTHERS McMULLEN (15): Irish-Americans agonise over love, commitment and beer. Modest feature debut by writer-director-actor Edward Burns.
MGM Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683)

◆ **GOLDENEYE** (12): Pierce Brosnan revives as the new James Bond. A rip-roaring thriller with a sense of humour, with Sean Bean.
Baker St (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Rd** ♿ (0171-370 2636) ***Odeons: Kensington*** (01426 914666) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **THE INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD** (PG): A toy Indian figure comes alive. Restrained and imaginative version of Lynne Reid Banks's children's stories, with Hal Scardino and Litefoot. Director, Frank Oz.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666)

OPERA: A thrilling revival of *Bohème*; and love and honour among fisherfolk

True to the joys as well as the tears in the attic

La Bohème
Grand, Leeds

Before you react with "oh no, not *another* revival of *Bohème*", be reminded that this is emphatically not just another *Bohème*. Phyllida Lloyd's two-year-old production for Opera North, set in the Paris of the 1950s, was always *fresh as paint: she has returned to re*-direct it with a new young cast and it comes up even fresher.

It is at once brilliantly funny and starkly tragic, and those who imagine *they are impervious to all Puccini's* little tricks by now should be warned that the end is simply shattering: five young people completely unable to cope with death in their midst. You *long for the curtain to descend, but the* excellent conductor Jean Yves Ossonce draws the final bars out to near breaking point, and you are spared nothing.

But you have had laughs along the way, from a Musetta and Marcello who tend to settle their differences non-verbally and on the floor, a cross-dressing Schaunard, amazing acrobatics in the fourth-act dance scene, even a little dig at the Covent Garden *Ring* (Rodolfo puts a cardboard box over his head). The scene in the Momus coffee-bar, its scarlet rexine banquette whirling on a revolve, is a masterpiece of stagecraft: the principals are always *visible and audible, and the surrealist* treatment of the toy-seller Parpignol brings a nice whiff of Cocteau to proceedings.

Ossonce is crucial to the evening's *success. He achieves ideal balance*, stressing the forward-looking delicacy of Puccini's instrumentation rather than its thumping "big tune" roots in early verismo: this means that the singers, *none of whom has a huge* voice, can project the words easily — and when did you last hear every *syllable of Schaunard's first-act narration?*

The singers also show that they know what these words (in Italian) mean and this, combined with Lloyd's *minutely detailed direction, results in a Bohème* so concentrated as to keep even the most blasé opera buffs on the edge of their seats.

You may not instantly believe in Tito *Beltran's Rodolfo as a melancholy* writer — he didn't fool me for a minute, tapping away on his Corona portable — but his portrait of a young Latin lover on the make looks pretty authentic, *as authentic as the Italianate ring to* his tenor. There's more melancholy to Karl Daymond's Marcello, warmly sung with nicely sustained legato lines. Garry Magee's frisky Schaunard and John Hall's rueful Colline are first-rate, and Eric Roberts makes a memorable landlord straight out of *Rising Damp*.

Young Margaret Richardson sings Mimi; her soprano is as yet a little "white", but she showed proper expansiveness in dealing with Puccini's long *lines, sympathetically nursed along by* Ossonce. Her cool, serious seamstress was plainly running the relationship. Elena Ferrari's deliciously sparky Musetta would run the world, given *half a chance*.

This *Bohème* is true in every way, true to Puccini, true to life, and richly rewarding.

RODNEY MILNES

DONALD COOPER

Tito Beltran as the young lover Rodolfo, and Margaret Richardson *as Mimi in Opera North's Bohème — set in Paris, staged in Leeds*

Fairy-tale of fate and froth

The Pearl Fishers
Coliseum

Philip Prowse has tended his production of *The Pearl Fishers* carefully over the years, prettifying and simplifying it. He is back for the present revival, and his guiding *hand is needed to make sure that* oriental gaudy, with pinks and golds predominating and sackfuls of pot-pourri covering the stage, does not turn into oriental tawdry. He just about *succeeds in controlling his own glittery* sets for Bizet's thin tale of love and honour among the fisherfolk of Ceylon. But the staging remains a combination of the bazaar and the bizarre.

The latter element is provided by the invented figure of Nemesis — or whoever the Brahman special representative may be on the Sinhalese shores — who stalks the action throughout with her three attendant whirling dervishes.

Prowse could well argue that the opera needs a bit of a boost. It really only springs to dramatic life during the big choral moments, and the ladies *and gentlemen of the ENO, heavily* blacked up, are happily on excellent form. But Lady Nemesis does become a bit tiresome before the evening is through. Happily the four principals *do not take too much notice of her until* the close, when she stands with her knife poised over Zurga's head.

Michael Lewis, despite a cold, made much of the only member of the cast *Bizet managed to turn into a flesh-and-*blood creature. His baritone rang out firm and true in the last act as Zurga meditates on the fate of his rival, Nadir, and eventually does the right thing and allows him to go off with the priestess, Leila. John Hudson's high tenor suits him well as Nadir and, given a little caution at the top, he negotiated the Cavatina with much grace. Hudson and Lewis sang their famous reaffirmation of friendship, after both falling for the same girl (Leila) in far off Kandy, with clear, swaying rhythm.

Elizabeth Woollett, swathed in veils, began *nervously as Leila, a part she* sang at the last revival. The opening coloratura stretched her, and her duets with her tenor did not strike much warmth. She was at her best in the last *act, with the sacrificial pyre just* around the corner. Mark Richardson repeated his stentorian Nourabad, promising death to all who flout Hindu law but ending up a corpse himself.

Emmanuel Joel, in the pit, confirmed the excellent impression he made in last season's *Don Quichotte*. He is a major asset to the ENO's French repertory, letting Bizet's melodies lap out into the theatre. It all makes for a comfortable Radio 2 evening, complete with fairy lights and sparklers, a nice piece of Kandy floss.

JOHN HIGGINS

Nervous start: Elizabeth Woollett

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Thirty years of British sleaze are evoked in Peter Flannery's new drama series

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THE TIMES ARTS

■ MUSIC 1

Richard Rodney Bennett's works are prominent in the opening night of PLG Young Artists

■ MUSIC 2

Rough edges are noticeable as the Lindsay Quartet continue their journey through Beethoven

Power corrupts ... eventually

After 14 years in television limbo, an epic and timely tale of political sleaze is about to hit our screens. **Ros Drinkwater** reports

Peter Flannery's decision to dish the political dirt in what could be an election year may strike cynics as a master stroke of timing. But not so. *Our Friends in the North*, his 11-hour saga of sleaze in British life from the 1960s to the 1990s, has had a long and painful gestation period — 14 years of angst and off-screen drama including, in 1989, threats of resignation by a senior BBC solicitor if the production went ahead, and in 1993 threats of resignation by a senior BBC producer if it did not.

It was in 1982 that BBC's Michael Wearing (then producing *Boys from the Blackstuff*) commissioned a reluctant Flannery to write a four-part television adaptation of his original stage play. "I didn't believe it would be made," Flannery says. "In 1982 there were more legal difficulties, but time and the grave have taken care of most of them. Just as we were about to roll, Michael Grade was appointed Controller of BBC1 with a brief to find popular drama. He found it in *EastEnders*, and my project was swept off the desk. I was given the impression that I could take my scripts and my nylon T-shirt and bugger off back north."

In 1989, with Flannery's reputation as a television writer established by the likes of *Blind Justice*, Wearing decided to have another go. Given the green light by Alan Yentob, the current Controller, he commissioned a second draft, updated and extended to eight episodes. Flannery had reached episode seven when the lawyers asked to see the scripts.

"At that time the BBC had considerable legal problems. In an effort to avoid costly libel actions the lawyers were demanding that ideas be cleared with them *before* they were written. I was told to set the story in a fictional country called Albion, that I mustn't mention Labour, the Tories, Newcastle, or any police rank above superintendent. I said no one would sue me — people had either been in prison and lost their reputations, or they had helped me, or they were dead and that, as it was a fictionalised account, anything I'd written was fair comment. The farce ended with a solicitor saying: 'If this goes into production I will resign.' So we were stopped. Again."

> ‘Regimes come and go, but lies and betrayals go on for ever’

Flannery wrote to Wearing, warning him never to mention the words *Our Friends in the North* again, a warning that Wearing chose to disregard. In 1992 it was a case of third time lucky: a third update was commissioned, produced and will soon be on our screens.

Flannery in the flesh comes as a surprise. One would take him for a kindly scholar; softly spoken, mild of manner. His belligerence surfaces in his opinions of politicians in general, the Metropolitan Police in particular, 1970s crime correspondents, soap operas and the rise of public relations, "giving gloss instead of content, work experience instead of jobs".

Born in 1951, the son of a Jarrow labourer, Flannery graduated from Manchester University in 1973 with a degree in drama. "I was political only in the way that working-class boys from that area tend to be. You have axes to grind about 'them and us', you are basically disposed towards Labour and you hate the Tories, but it's fairly unthinking, it's in the blood, so to say. I wasn't and never have been a member of any political organisation."

Our Friends in the North was first commissioned by the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1981. Its essence, then and now, lies in the development of four personal relationships, the idea born of Flannery's need to explore a question that intrigued him — why was his parents' generation in the North East so apathetic and cynical? "I perceived the possibility of political change, they saw it as an impossibility, offering as evidence corruption in the 1970s — golden handshakes, vice scandals, Poulson, T. Dan Smith, the unacceptable face of capitalism.

"I rang Smith and said I wanted to write a play about apathy, decay and corruption in British politics. 'Ah', he said, 'there is a play here of Shakespearean proportions.'" Tolstoyesque, more like: *Our Friends*, as filmed by the BBC, uses 160 named characters and 3,000 extras, and is the biggest contemporary serial ever produced by BBC 2.

Smith led Flannery to examine alleged corruption in the police force. "I found the stories overlapping, the same people were involved." Conversations with Frank Williamson, the first outsider to head an inquiry into alleged Metropolitan Police corruption, revealed a similar tale. "Most of those involved were never charged, their defence was always that they had worked entirely in the public interest, just as T. Dan had maintained regarding the housing scandals."

According to Flannery, Williamson's report to Reginald Maudling, the then Home Secretary, was wholly damning. "He believed there was systematic corruption both in the Met and the CID. The report was returned to him within two hours, without comment. He never received an acknowledgement and he resigned. What Williamson didn't know was that at that time the Met was investigating Poulson, and who was chairman of Poulson's company at the time bribes were handed out? Maudling. Some of the people who were detective sergeants and inspectors in the late Sixties and Seventies are now men of more senior rank."

The update to 1995 means that the story now ends as it begins, with a new-model Labour Party and a bright new Labour leader. "Life's a circle," Flannery says. "Regimes come and go, but lies and betrayals go on for ever. There has always been corruption in politics; all that was different about the Sixties was that because of some good campaigning journalism some of the scandals were brought out into the open.

"I've moved from being an angry young political writer to a much more confused political animal who now sees the value in writing about relationships. We live in an ongoing culture of corruption. *Friends in the North* is the story of people who tried to do something about it, and failed. It may be a Utopian ideal, but we must keep trying because the drift is always in the other direction. Corruption breeds corruption. I'd love to believe that a Labour victory would start a clean-up in politics, but I'm afraid they'll be trapped by the very institutions that support them.

"I dread the prospect of Tony Blair gradually disappearing into himself at the end of the century, having to come out with the same compromises and half-truths in order to defend the system that supports him. In many ways T. Dan Smith was a villain, but he had this boundless optimism that he could change the world. His last words to me before he died are worth remembering — 'Tomorrow is too late'."

● Our Friends in the North *begins next Monday at 9pm on BBC 2*

England, their England: (top) Malcolm McDowell; (middle) police under threat; (above, from left) Daniel Craig, Mark Strong, Gina McKee and Christopher Eccleston, *Our Friends in the North*

LONDON CONCERTS

Fine view from a double-decker

PLG Young Artists
Purcell Room

Double-decker concerts, two each evening, are the basis of the Park Lane Group's Young Artists Series, which annually gives a kick-start to the new year's music. Not only do they bring forward much of the best new classical talent around, but the artists are heard mostly in music by composers of their own generation.

So it was with both the first night programmes, the later of which boldly juxtaposed a saxophone quartet with a solo marimba played by Colin Boyle. Mellower than its near-relation the xylophone, the marimba demands a skilled technique if it is not to sound unduly monochromatic, and this Boyle supplied in abundance in his four-hammer attack on the American Jacob Druckman's Debussy tribute, *Reflections on the Nature of Water*, and the desert landscape evocation of Piers Hellawell's *Takla Makan*.

Boyle, a Scotsman, also has a vivid control of dynamics down to a whisper-soft pianissimo, which he further demonstrated in a nicely varied *Prelude, Meditation and Toccata* by Matthew Taylor, and in another Debussy tribute, *After Syrinx II* by Richard Rodney Bennett, where the variations on the original flute writing have been cleverly converted into new material to take the marimba repertory one step wider.

Bennett also added richness to saxophone music with his Saxophone Quartet (1994), played here with beguiling assurance by the three women and one man who call themselves Saxploitation. As well as exploiting the timbre of each member of the sax family from soprano to baritone, its ensemble writing is superbly crafted. The quartet was also heard in *Don Javi*, an ebullient character portrait by Oscar Bettison, and in *Six of the Bestiary*, a wittily allusive carnival of some other animals by Anthony Gilbert.

Gilbert's third String Quartet was a centrepiece of the early evening programme by the Nossek String Quartet, four women, including Jane Nossek as first violin, who are now on the staff of Manchester's Royal Northern College of Music. Their youthful accomplishment was evident in the crisp attack and balanced ensemble they brought to the work, a rhythmic drone imitating the hurdy-gurdy underpinning fragments of a theme worked over from a 14th-century hocket by Guillaume de Machaut.

Most impressive in this programme, however, was *The Still Dancers* by Piers Hellawell, three pieces designed to be played consecutively or separately, and here deployed as prelude, interlude, and postlude, to the other works. Each one had an unusual degree of imaginative enchantment, to which the lightly sprung figuration of the players contributed much, as did a more assertive style to a trenchantly written String Quartet by Paul Newland.

NOEL GOODWIN

Erratic cycle path

Lindsay Quartet
Wigmore Hall

On Friday and Saturday nights at the Wigmore Hall, the Lindsay Quartet progressed to the halfway point in their Beethoven cycle. The technical accomplishment of the Lindsays is considerable, yet it cannot be taken for granted. Whether one looks back to great ensembles of the past (the Amadeus spring to mind) or sideways at quartets of the new generation (the Skampa and the Brindisi, to name just two), the comparison is not flattering on a technical level. A performance from the Lindsays comes complete with rough edges, occasional wayward tuning (most noticeably from the leader, Peter Cropper) and even a sense of detachment.

Op 18 No 2, opening Friday's concert, exemplified this lack of polish, and although Op 127 in E Flat Major featured some powerfully conceived playing, it was let down by momentary lapses of concentration and a curious air of disengagement. When they get into their stride, however, the Lindsays are capable of extraordinary things. The first *Razumovsky* quartet, Op 59 No 1, brought the finest playing in Friday's concert. The opening movement, with its surging main theme and coursing repeated quavers in the accompaniment, built up to a tidal flow.

The scherzando element of the second movement was projected not by a skittish, lightweight treatment of the staccato, but with intimations of a darker side. The discordant outburst, when it came, was trenchant, making the move into the distant B major all the sweeter. The exotic quality of passages like this, strongly coloured by the vibrant playing of Cropper, is one of the Lindsays' most characteristic and attractive features.

The Adagio was a glorious lyrical effusion, shot through with minor-key intensity. The wonderful series of dialogues, beginning with first violin and cello stretching out in opposite directions, launched things on to a higher plane, and the move to D flat major brought with it a serene glow.

Saturday's concert was a more consistent affair, with thoroughly engaging accounts of further early (Op 18 No 3 in D), middle (Op 95 in F Minor) and late (Op 130 in B Flat) works. The homogeneity and thematic interplay of Op 18 No 3 were a delight, as was the intensity in the outer movements of Op 95 (*Serioso*).

If the progress of the late B Flat Quartet was a touch more erratic, that is in the nature of the piece. Beethoven's repeated dislocations of tempo and rhythm do not make for easy listening, but the Lindsays held our attention with the quiet authority and integrity of their playing.

Op 130 can be heard again, this time with the Grosse Fuge as finale, in Wednesday's concert, but tickets are virtually impossible to come by.

BARRY MILLINGTON

David Sinclair wonders if it is healthy for a small clique of bands to win a disproportionate number of awards

Britpop will dominate Brits

The mood was buoyant yesterday, when the organisers of the Brit Awards announced the nominations for this year's event. The chairman of the awards, Paul Burger, said the nominations reflected "the renaissance of British music in 1995", and predicted that the event (which is being staged this year for the first time at Earls Court, on February 19) would be the best yet.

David Bowie, who will receive the Outstanding Contribution award, was confirmed as the only artist so far booked to perform at the event. But Malcolm Gerrie, producer of the 90-minute TV show which will be screened on ITV the following night, declined to comment on speculation that Michael Jackson and Robson & Jerome — none of whom received nominations — would nevertheless be invited to perform.

To gauge the extent of that "renaissance" it is worth remembering that when Blur swept the board at last year's Brits, winning four awards and leaving Oasis to console themselves with a trophy for Best British Newcomer, the mass of the British public hardly knew who either of these young groups were. Most newspapers illustrated the event with a picture of Madonna, an American who had not actually won anything. A year later, those same groups are so familiar that the event is beginning to look like an exercise in rounding up the usual suspects.

Predictably, this year's nominations confirm the domination of the so-called Britpop bands. Four acts — Blur, Oasis, Pulp and (slightly more surprisingly) Radiohead — have established a virtual stranglehold in every category for which they are eligible: Best British Group, Album, Producer, Video and Single. Supergrass are nominated in three categories (Newcomer, Video and Single) and apart from Tricky, the Best British Newcomers are all Britpop favourites — Black Grape, Supergrass, Elastica and Cast.

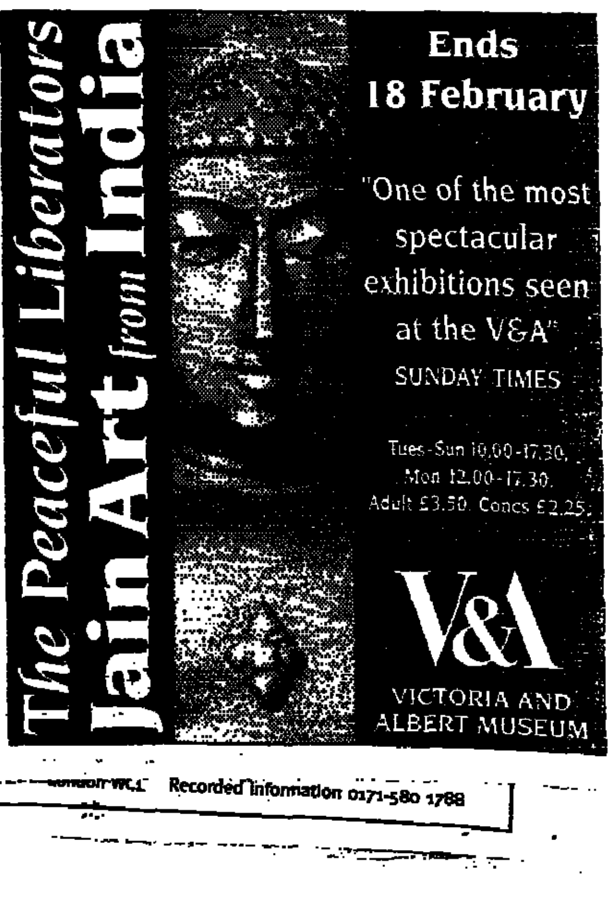
It is hard to think what could be better news for the Brits than the arrival of Britpop. A vindication of everything the awards stand for, even the name "Britpop", spontaneously coined sometime last summer, could have been tailor-made to bolster the credibility of the event. After all, if the aim is to celebrate and promote the British music industry it helps to have something appealing, timely and genuinely successful to celebrate. The *NME*'s Brat awards — the supposed anti-establishment alternative to the "moribund" Brits — features an almost identical line-up in most of its nominations, also announced last week.

But the concentration on this small clique of acts rather begs the question of what is going on elsewhere in our music industry, and whether Britpop is now commanding a disproportionate amount of media attention and music industry resources. Take That are nominated for Best Video and Best Single, but otherwise the teeny bands have been completely wiped out. And did none of the shortlisted British dance acts — Eternal, Leftfield, Massive Attack, M People and Tricky — or solo acts (with the single exception of the Britpop-affiliated Paul Weller) make an album worthy of inclusion in the Best Album list? It seems not.

The paucity of British female solo acts this year is especially noticeable. There were only about a dozen who were even eligible, having released an album during the appropriate period, and those that are include such venerable ladies as Shirley Bassey, Elaine Paige and Olivia Newton-John. The eventual shortlist of P.J. Harvey, Annie Lennox, Vanessa Mae, Shara Nelson and Joan Armatrading is not hugely inspiring, and I trust Harvey will win it by a mile.

Internationally, the Best Female Solo Artist is one of the livelier categories with the stylish Bjork, k.d. lang and Alanis Morissette facing heavyweight opposition in the slender shapes of Mariah Carey and Celine Dion. And it is encouraging to see the (comparatively) fresh faces of Foo Fighters, Garbage and Morissette all nominated in two categories.

OTHER NOMINEES: Best British Male Solo Artist: Edwyn Collins, Van Morrison, Jimmy Nail, Tricky, Paul Weller. **Best International Male Solo Artist:** Coolio, Lenny Kravitz, Meat Loaf, Prince, Neil Young. **Best Soundtrack:** *Batman Forever, Braveheart, Muriel's Wedding, Natural Born Killers, Waiting to Exhale.*



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LAW

● THE NEW BAR CHAIRMAN SPEAKS OUT 37

aula Davies wonders about the wisdom of using private firms to help at court

Security plc: is this the best way to go?

I was all I could do to :eep a straight face. As a lench, we had given ermission for two defe;ats aged 15 and 17 to be brugt — handcuffed — into court: a situation I have nerereen in my 20 years as a nastrate.

Twoulking lads appeared, dwarfg the security officers. The bs looked as though they old have thrown off their ards with ease. While hopinhat the security men knew f-defence, I pondered the cuent wisdom of using privatecurity officers rather than t police when it comes to wl used to be called jaileri moving prisoners from ıtody to court.

It w the Criminal Justice Act ı 1991 that *officially* replac the police presence, eithers escorts for poners or court ficers in the cdhouse itself, w a private systen A few were place before ıe Act becauıf a shortage oolice officers:ut most privatı systems have h phased in sı 1993, some recently as lastar. Now most of the police ıs in relation to the *courts ıe been privatised.*

Cousecurity is an imporanpect for magistrates, who wd take a dim view of chairs ng thrown at them by angdefendants. Under Section of the Act, the powersd duties of security officers lude being empowered toearch any person who is ir is seeking to enter the coumse and any article in the session of such a person"

They ı also exclude or remove m the courthouse any pea who refuses to permit h a search. And they arepowered to exclude *or remony person where it* is "reasoly necessary to do so in orco maintain order, to enablurt business to be carried without interference *or ıy or to secure his* or any ı person's safety". If neory, "reasonable force" mıe used.

Accord to Peter Badge, the Chieftropolitan Magistrate, thuse of civilians instead ıhe police in the adult cou ıas been working better thpeople expected.

Most ordinary magistrates, however, find the situation far less comfortable than when the police were in charge.

As one of my colleagues remarked: "The police would never have let a boy come into court without a shirt, as happened recently, nor would they have had to handcuff two lads. Yet civilian security officers cannot possibly have the antennae for trouble that the police have developed over the years. And the new officers lack the background knowledge and general ability to manage a difficult waiting room, which is *particularly* common to the youth courts. They need training, time and experience."

Training for these court *security officers in inner* London, however, has been extended from two to three days to promote "interpersonal *skills*", as well as training in the Act itself. The heavy-handed phrase covers the vital necessity of treating people with respect and kindness — particularly important when dealing with youngsters and their parents in the often volatile atmosphere of the *youth courts. Apparently, the* training does not differentiate between the adult and youth courts, which may explain some of the problems associated with dealing with the so-called supporters clubs in youth court waiting rooms. Fortunately, as officers gain in experience, this seems to have been resolved.

> Police have to be called in to make some arrests

There are six weeks of training for the prison escort officers. There has, however, also been criticism of escort officers for failing to prevent young lads from "doing a runner" — absconding from the courthouse. Yet such escapes also occurred when the police were in charge. And it was not entirely clear at the start of the exercise whether civilian security officers had *the power to restrain people* from leaving. This has now been clarified; and everyone agrees they can.

According to a regional director of one security firm, there is also a grey area concerning arresting someone who is causing a disturbance within the court itself. Most senior magistrates and their clerks believe that a security officer, as an officer of the court, is empowered to arrest someone for "contempt of court" if asked.

What security officers cannot do, however, is make an arrest in matters other than contempt of court. The police have to be called in to make other arrests: for example, when a person fails to answer *to his or her bail. Some clerks* seem to be under the impression that the police have to be called in order to arrest fine-defaulters, yet this problem has apparently been under the control of civilians for some time.

What is certain is that magistrates are on a learning curve, albeit not such a steep one as that of the security officers. And most are agreeably surprised by the increasing professionalism of the security firms that have contracted to do the work.

A few courts have decided to appoint their own security staff on the grounds that this offers greater flexibility and that the security people will know what is expected of them *and have the advantage of* knowing all the staff members, making — it is hoped — for a smoother-running court.

Rumour has it that security officers are paid less per hour than a domestic cleaner in central London. If so, they are doing a remarkable job.

● *The author is a magistrate.*

TONY LARKIN

Private security officers escort a prisoner arriving at court, work formerly done by the police

French jury system may be restricted

The most important reform of the French criminal courts for 200 years has prompted a serious debate with the legal system. Lawyers, magistrates and academics agree that there is a problem but *they cannot agree on the right solution.*

Told by the overwhelming majority of the profession that the Cours d'assises — the courts that try such serious crimes as murder, rape and robbery — are outdated and unpopular, the country's Gaullist-led Government said in July that it would introduce a much-needed overhaul.

But the resulting Bill, which was outlined in a consultative document this autumn and is now going through Parliament, has sparked fierce controversy, with opponents claiming that it will restrict, if not abolish, the role of the jury.

Under the present system, set up during the heady days of the French Revolution in 1789, crimes of violence are tried at the Cours d'assises by nine jurors sitting with three judges. They decide on the verdict and the sentence but are not asked for a written judgment. Less serious crimes, such as theft, are tried by three judges alone in the Tribunaux correctionnels.

The debate is over the future of the Cours d'assises, the one court where a jury is used. *Few commentators* have dared to question the theory behind such jury trials, but, in recent years, they have been increasingly prone to criticise a system that they *feel* does not always work on an equal basis throughout France, and is also out of step with many other European countries.

Lawyers say that in different parts of the country jurors hand down widely differing sentences for the same crimes. Thus, in the South of France, rape is punished far more severely than in the North. An arsonist, on the other hand, is likely to fare better in Provence than in Normandy. None of this, critics say, would be of much importance if an appeal were possible. But, except in rare cases, it is not.

As in England, a verdict can be quashed only on a point of law or if new evidence comes to light. Yet, unlike England, there is no way of appealing against a sentence that appears particularly severe or lenient. "The *jury is perceived as a manifestation of popular* sovereignty and consequently it is felt that a decision reached by a jury should not be lightly interfered with," says a government briefing document on its legal system.

However, lawyers point out that defendants in a Tribunal correctionnel, being tried for less serious offences and without a jury, do have an automatic right of appeal. "We have a *system that is twisted," says Antoine* Garapon, general secretary of the Institute of Superior Justice Studies in Paris. "It is incoherent."

He added that the Government's reforms were all *the more urgent because the* European Court of Human Rights has made it clear that defendants facing a heavy sentence should be given the possibility of a retrial.

Attempts by Jacques Toubon, the Minister of Justice, to deal with these complaints in his Bill has only created more conflict. Under his reforms a new court will be created, called the Tribunal criminel départemental, where three judges will sit alongside two citizen-assessors, who will play a role *similar* to lay magistrates in England. The new court will hand down a full written judgment, which will be open to appeal by either the prosecutor or the defendant. The Cours d'assises will be transformed into a court which will hear only appeal cases.

ADAM SAGE

For M Toubon, the advantages of his system are many. Inconsistencies in sentencing should be eliminated, defendants facing serious charges will be given *the same right* to appeal as those accused of more minor charges, and the excessively long delays in bringing cases to court, often *three or four years, should be* reduced.

"All defendants who are appealing will be able, if they so desire, to opt for trial by jury, and *in that case it will be the jury which* will have the last word," the Justice Ministry says.

Many lawyers, however, are not so sure about these advantages. M Garapon says that, in *practice*, only about 10 per cent of cases would go to appeal, with the result that trial by jury would be very restricted.

"A lot of defendants simply want to get it over with. For example, about a third of the cases in the present Cours d'assises concern sexual abuse and, for the accused, the trial is an ordeal which they will not want to go through again."

Jean-Claude Bouvier, general secretary of the Magistrates' Union, said that even where defendants did appeal, "the weight of the first decision will have enormous *importance. The chances are that at the* appeal the original sentence will be confirmed. The result will be to slim down the role of the jury."

Despite all these complaints, M Toubon says *he will* press ahead with *his* proposals, although he may introduce minor modifications. "These reforms," he said recently, "will reinforce the role of the jury."

INNS AND OUTS

Brder dpute

A BITTEross-border clash has takence between Tony Holland,e former Law Society pdent, and Robin de WildC, a founder of The Sl: the grassroots movemeır *greater democracy* at tlar.

The die has unfolded in the pagof *Counsel*, the Bar's joıl. First into the fray was de Wilde. *In an* article inober extolling the virtues dartin Mears, the Law Scy president, he accused e Law Society Council etraying its members "onry issue".

In a lein the latest issue, rebuttinıe allegation, Mr Hollanc/s the article is so full of rs "it is hard to know ve to start. It took me somme to realise that he was ıinely referring to what hıceived to be real events." de Wilde claims the lettdemonstrates why Mr Ma Mears was elected by the membership". He concludes: "Perhaps I might be allowed to agree that Mr Holland's decision to resign from the Council of the Law Society, is, as he puts it, 'one of *his best decisions*'."

Hot night

PARTIES usually generate a *lot of noise but, just before* Christmas, the first birthday party for FT Law & Tax, the legal publisher, generated more than most. It combined *its party with a celebration of* 100 years publishing its leading work, *Emmet on Title*. But the 101 candles on the black and pink iced cake set *off the fire alarms.*

To add to the confusion, latecomers were left out in the cold as the doors to the *Financial Times's* Southwark Bridge *offices automatically* locked to prevent anyone entering. Production on the *FT* almost came to a halt as journalists were just stopped from running for the fire exits.

Street cred

A POCKET guide to "street" law for school leavers was launched yesterday. The *Young Citizen's Passport* (99p) from the Citizenship Foundation gives practical advice on every aspect of the law encountered by young adults, from parties to landlords, motorbikes to credit *and tax. A free copy has been* sent to secondary schools and sixth-form colleges. Details: Tony Thorpe (0171-236 2171).

CD Christmas

THE MOST original Christmas message came in the form of a CD recording of 32 *of Lewis Silkin's partners and* staff singing *Jingle Bells*, complete with "Ho-hos" and a mix of male and female choruses. Peter Scott, the law firm's manager, says: "The Lewis Silkin Choral Ensemble was made up of volunteers. We had one rehearsal, followed by an hour in a recording studio." The firm printed 3,000 copies for clients. Mr Scott would not reveal the amount spent — but to record a CD usually costs at least £2,000.

Prime lines

OVERCROWDING on the Internet is predicted for 1996 in the latest *Internet Newsletter*, a guide for lawyers. It says growing interest will bring congestion: "Already, it is better to go online when the Americans are asleep — ie, in the morning for us — and the earlier the better."

The best time, it says, is 4am, when both America and Europe are asleep. Avoid afternoons and evenings. The newsAletter (details 01273 472424) also says that costs of using the net will rise.

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Testing Candidates

Two candidates attending their second interviews for a private client job in Leeds were surprised to find themselves subjected to a written test lasting half an hour. At the first interviews, one of the candidates had emerged as the favourite. He had several years' experience in private client work, and an easy, confident manner. The other candidate had appeared more nervous and uncertain. She was not at all happy about being tested. Unexpectedly, the written results showed *her to be the better of the two, and* on the strength of the test she was offered the job.

Things do not always work out quite so happily. Another candidate who turned up for an interview with a London firm was *handed a test* questionnaire by the receptionist and asked to complete it in the lobby. Feeling affronted by what he regarded as offhand treatment, he turned around and left.

The use of written tests appears to be increasing, certainly in industry, and we are often asked to warn candidates that they will be tested. *Reactions differ.* Younger candidates are not unduly fazed by the prospect of being tested. Older candidates to whom examinations are a distant memory can be more reluctant.

Our advice is to go along with the *interviewers' requirements and to* treat the tests seriously. They are a legitimate interview tool, and their use will probably become more widespread.

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Miss Fiona Horlick, **Miss Eloise Marshall** and **Miss Hannah Swain** having successfully completed pupillage have also joined Chambers.

We wish to express our thanks to **Michael Hill QC** and **Nicholas Purnell QC** for their work as Head and Deputy Head of Chambers, both of whom continue in practice in Chambers.

Members of Chambers are now as follows:

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Nicholas Purnell QC
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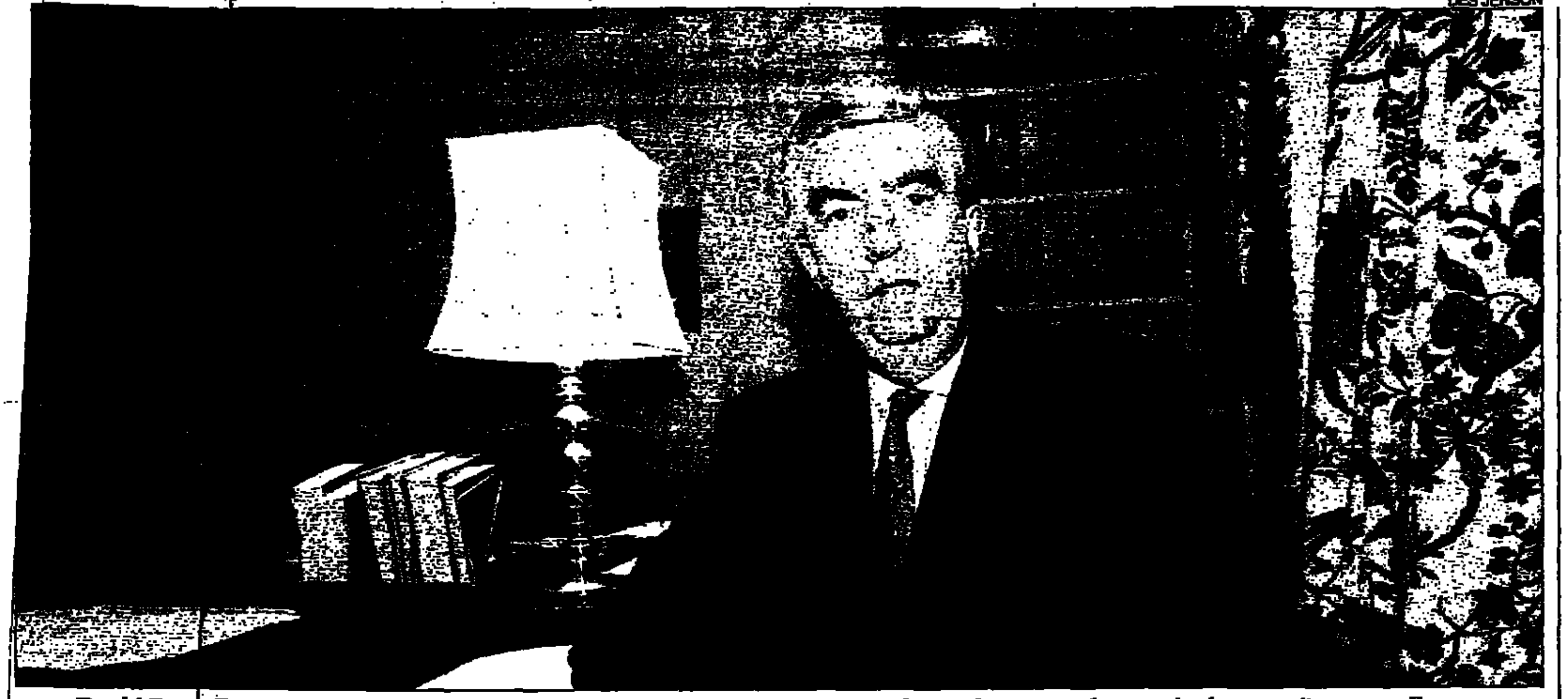

David Penry-Davey, QC: "He is strict, has high standards and works very hard — and expects others to do the same," says a colleague

The Bar will speak out

David Penry-Davey, QC, is the new chairman of the Bar. **Frances Gibb** asks him his plans

He looks like everyone's favourite uncle. He is affable and cracks jokes. But David Penry-Davey, QC, is not just a safe, unpredictable, pair of hands. With a year of tough battles ahead, it is apt that the Bar has elected him to be its new leader.

Mr Penry-Davey — DPD to colleagues and friends — is a criminal practitioner from the profession's ranks. Like most of the Criminal Bar, his work is chiefly legal aid; much of it outside London on the circuits. So he brings personal knowledge of the criminal justice system and the proposed reforms on which the Bar intends to tackle the Government.

In style and experience, therefore, he could not be more of a contrast to his predecessor, Peter Goldsmith, QC, a smooth-tongued, exacting commercial silk who led an unremitting and intense campaign to modernise the Bar. Mr Penry-Davey's own head of chambers, Anthony Scrivener, QC — himself a former Bar chairman — says of his colleague: "David is a good all-round advocate. His strength is that he actually mixes with the people on the circuit he represents. He will make an excellent leader — he's very popular, particularly with the Criminal Bar. He knows what's going on."

But if anyone thought Mr Penry-Davey's year would be one of steady consolidation, they were wrong. Since his inaugural speech last month to the Bar Council, the 90-strong governing body of the profession, he has laid down a series of markers: legal aid, Lord Woolf's reforms on civil justice, criminal justice policies, the Bar's own plans for a complaints system...

More significantly, he has lined up the Bar in clear opposition to the Government over its sentencing plans, to be outlined soon in a White Paper. In an attack on government sentencing policies, he says minimum sentences would destroy the Government's own incentives to criminals to plead guilty in the shape of sentence discounts. "What incentives will there be," he says, "for anybody who might become liable to a minimum sentence to plead guilty?"

He also attacked the Home Secretary's method of formulating policy "by announcement to the Tory party conference", then implemented in hastily drafted legislation.

The Bar, he says, has been subject to "Criminal Justice Acts raining down on us like confetti, and swings in sentencing policy". First, courts were told only to jail offenders when strictly necessary and then for as short a time as possible, he says.

"Now," he adds, "it appears that judges are being told to do exactly the opposite — and we have the Tory party chairman [Brian Mawhinney] encouraging individuals to write in to say what they think of judges' sentences", an approach he "wholly deprecates". Mr Penry-Davey has delivered a similar attack on the Lord Chancellor's proposed reforms for the legal aid scheme.

Not that Mr Penry-Davey is particularly radical. A colleague describes him as a "free thinker" from a strong Tory background; his solicitor-father, whom he regrets did not live to see him become leader of the Southeastern Circuit (he held the post from 1992 to 1995), was a staunch local Conservative.

Whatever his politics, Mr Penry-Davey is a natural conservative; Martin Hart, his senior clerk, says: "He is very strict on attitude to the clients — always calls people 'Mr' or 'Mrs', never gets involved with their personal side and has high standards. He works hard, and expects others to do the same." In terms of Bar policies, he will pursue current initiatives. Formerly Bar vice-chairman, Mr Penry-Davey backs the proposals for a complaints system — proposals opposed, ironically, by some within the Criminal Bar. He rejects the claim that the scheme involves abandoning self-regulation. "If we throw this modest scheme out, we send to the outside world the message that we are not prepared to regulate ourselves. And if we don't, somebody else will, perhaps in a way we find much more unpleasant."

Mr Penry-Davey's other concerns include the need for barristers to be trained in advocacy. As circuit leader, he set up a residential advocacy course and a sponsorship scheme for trainee barristers to go to America for training.

Outside the Bar, he is a family man. He and his wife, a drama teacher, live in Dulwich, south London, and have three children. He enjoys golf, music and fell-walking.

He is aware that many barristers regard "bringing up a family and earning a living" as more important than Bar Council matters. And he accepts that there is a limit to the impact one individual can have in one year as leader.

But in that time he is determined, as he puts it, that "its voice will be heard". He says: "If we can leave the profession in good shape at the end of 1996, I shall be content."

Time for a limited move offshore?

Lawyers worried about their homes and cars are considering new options

Do you sleep well at night? Partners in professional firms were given uneasy dreams by last month's High Court judgment in the ADT case which, subject to an appeal, may mean personal bills of hundreds of thousands of pounds for Binder Hamlyn partners.

What happens to accountants today normally affects lawyers tomorrow. The case has highlighted the fact that "unlimited liability" means exactly what it says: that lawyers can face huge payouts when negligence is proved against them.

Lawyers agree that some protection is necessary. Graham New, Shoosmiths & Harrison's managing partner, says: "We have been looking at this issue, and we are shadowing what the accountants are doing."

In fact, the accountants are already demanding reform of the law on "joint and several liability" and the right to restrict their liability on audits by contract. In due course, lawyers may ask for an equivalent form of shelter.

For the present, however, most top law firms have been undertaking rapid reviews of their insurance cover. As Peter Cole, the managing partner at Eversheds, says: "We live in a culture in which suing one's professional advisers seems to be increasingly attractive."

Among the top 20 firms, the current spread of cover is, for some, as low as £75 million; for others, £250 million. The average seems to be £125 million. The significance of this has been borne out in "beauty parades". Lawyers pitching for work are sometimes asked about their level of professional indemnity cover. Some managing partners would like to have agreements with clients that the level of cover would also represent their level of exposure. John Heller of Hammond Suddards says: "I'd like to see a limited liability built into agreements. Our clients limit their liability; I don't see why we should not do the same."

John Trotter, one of the professional indemnity specialists at Lovell White Durrant, has recently looked at this issue on an international basis. His view is that the scale of some transactions may now be so large that they simply cannot be covered by insurance. Lawyers might have no option but to confront clients with the facts of the limits of a law firm's resources when it comes to being sued.

The problem is that whichever firm pioneered such an approach might put itself at a competitive disadvantage. To be effective, the move would require concerted action by the top 50 firms — an unlikely prospect. The next best step might be the setting-up of a limited-liability partnership offshore — probably in Jersey. Many accountants are already considering this possibility. But Nigel Knowles, of Dibb Lupton, is sceptical about whether it would work because he thinks judges might raise objections. The route already adopted by some accountants, however, is incorporation. This does not protect the firm but it removes the homes and cars of individual partners from the firing line. Mr Knowles says that his firm is already seriously considering incorporation.

He says: "There are many compelling reasons for a law firm like ours to incorporate: for example, to spread ownership, to provide a better remuneration system and have a better structure for managing the business. There would also be the advantage of protecting individual partners — but that would not be the main motive."

Ultimately, however, many lawyers believe that quality systems and risk assessment are the best ways of cutting down exposure.

Shoosmiths & Harrison is the biggest firm in the country to have the ISO 9001 "quality" standard and Mr New regards this as a key part of protecting the partnership.

Meanwhile, Julia Chain, managing partner at Garrett & Co, says that when she developed her systems, she borrowed heavily from Arthur Andersen, the accountancy firm with which Garrett & Co is associated. She adds: "We followed Arthur Andersen's experience in order to build the most rigorous system available."

In the end, however, there is no infallible system. Lawyers are prepared to live with risk so long as it is at a sensible level. "The idea is that one should be able to sleep at night," says Mr Heller, whose fervent dream is that a nightmare claim will never happen to him.

EDWARD FENNELL

Peter Cole: suing can seem too attractive; Julia Chain: followed Andersen's experience

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Briton warned to speed up as O'Meara coasts to three-shot triumph

Faldo delighted to settle for second

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN SAN DIEGO

AN UPBEAT Nick Faldo shrugged off a warning for slow play after a splendid, but vain, attempt to win the Mercedes Championship at La Costa, here on Sunday.

He was too euphoric over his fine form to be concerned at criticism from his playing partner, Mark O'Meara, who steadfastly defended a four-shot overnight lead to beat Faldo into second place by a three-stroke margin in the curtain-raiser to the 1996 US PGA Tour.

Faldo was delighted at making such a promising start to the season, with rounds of 70, 69, 68 and 67 giving him renewed hope that he can reassert himself on the American circuit and launch a worthwhile challenge for the four major championships.

The only sour note in an encouraging start to his campaign was Florida-based O'Meara's refusal to accept any blame after the pair, playing in the last group in the final round, were ordered to increase their pace of play in the interests of making a television deadline.

They had fallen a hole and a half behind the group ahead when they reached a critical stage in the showdown and both players were told to move faster at the 10th hole, where Faldo chipped in from 20 feet to cut his deficit to two shots. "It upset me," the 38-year-old British golfer said, after finishing on a 14-under-par 274. "The official said we were five minutes behind schedule and had to move faster.

"We had the biggest gallery on the course. It is never easy to play quickly when you are in the last group. We made up a minute on each of the next three holes, Mark and I had four birdies between us over that stretch and you cannot play any faster than that. Then we were told they were putting the clock on us and that's the last thing you need in such a tense situation."

They were warned on two other occasions and Faldo, who made his feelings known to officials before accepting a cheque worth $88,000 (about £57,000) for sharing second place with Scott Hoch, of the United States, said: "It was completely unnecessary. If we had been left alone, we would have made up the time over the next two holes anyway."

Scores 40

O'Meara, who completed his eleventh Tour win with a closing 68, pointed the finger of blame at his rival, telling the tournament director: "If we are playing slowly, it has nothing to do with me. Slow play isn't a problem with my game. Nick said he was running but I was watching Faldo and thinking to myself: 'Why do you stand over the ball so long before hitting it?'"

The penalty for slow play is one stroke and that was never likely to be applied, with officials reluctant to tarnish the occasion. While the general concern is laudable, Faldo and O'Meara completed the final round with eight minutes to spare before national television went off the air.

Faldo said: "I am not complaining because so many good things happened for me this week. I feel ready for a successful season after such an encouraging start. I improved my score every day and to have a 67 under pressure in the first event of the year has got to be good. I was particularly pleased with my driving — I only missed four fairways in 72 holes."

He had an eagle and five birdies with the title tilting towards O'Meara at the 11th, a testing 180-yard par three, where the British golfer's tee-shot finished four feet from the pin, with his rival eight yards away. The American holed his putt, while Faldo, clearly rattled by the slow play distraction, missed.

Faldo said: "That was the turning point. I expected to get within a shot of Mark and that would have put the pressure on him. Instead I lost a stroke and there was very little I could do after that."

He will take a three-week break before returning in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am and the Buick Invitational here and will then prepare for the Masters in April by playing five tournaments in Florida.

LENNY IGNELZI

Faldo celebrates after his successful birdie chip on the 10th hole at La Costa

Sick Sampras doubtful for Australian Open

Sampras: virus

PETE SAMPRAS, the world No 1, is struggling to be fit for the Australian Open tennis championship next week. Sampras withdrew yesterday from the Kooyong Classic, which starts in Melbourne tomorrow, because of a virus.

"Pete is very ill with the virus," a Kooyong Classic tournament spokeswoman said yesterday. "He has been advised not to travel to Australia while he is ill." With the opening grand slam event of the year getting underway at Flinders Park in Melbourne on Monday, it does not allow Sampras much time to make the long flight and get in the necessary practice to be ready for the tournament.

Sampras was runner-up to Andre Agassi at the Australian Open last January, but finished the year winning Wimbledon and the US Open, taking the number of grand slam titles he has won to seven.

Agassi, who is playing in the eight-man warm-up event, arrived in Melbourne yesterday and said that he has fully recovered from a nagging chest muscle injury and is ready to defend his title next week.

"It's nice to be healthy again, feeling ready, and to start off here is a good feeling for me," he said. "I had never played here until last year and it's nice to know that when I've been away from the game, I can come back to a place where I'm treated so well.

"Needless to say, my energy level is high," he said. "I've been away for a bit, so you are always enthusiastic to get back." Agassi's chest injury ruled him out of the Davis Cup final against Russia in Moscow last month, and he said lack of match fitness was his principal concern. "I'm as confident as ever, but it's not ideal to go into the tournament without playing an event for a few months," he said. "But I think that if I get through the first week, I'll be playing my best tennis in the second week."

In the Peters International tournament in Sydney yesterday, Arnaud Boetsch, the No 3 seed, was beaten 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 by Richard Fromberg, of Australia. Boetsch, of France, could not match the unseeded Australian's persistence in the sweltering conditions.

Masterly Haynes brings England down to earth

FROM MEL WEBB IN SHARJAH

IT WAS so easy it was almost embarrassing. England, with hopes high after a big victory in their first match of the World Masters Cricket series here, hit the deck with a resounding wallop yesterday when they were put to flight by a West Indies side that grows stronger with every match.

England's team of over-35s had one short spell in the field when they looked capable of making a game of it, taking three wickets for 14 runs in mid-innings. It could not last, and did not, and West Indies, under the stewardship of Desmond Haynes, whose 125 not out won him the man-of-the-match award, duly won by five wickets with 23 balls to spare.

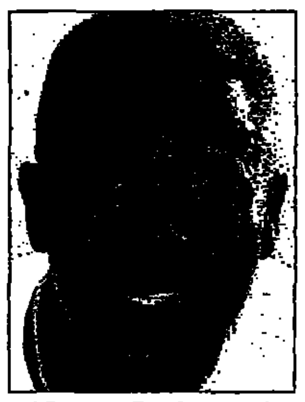
It has become something of a pattern in this series that the bat has dominated to a remarkable extent over the ball, and this game continued the sequence. The dominant figures in the match were all using timber, not leather. The bowlers? Well, with the honourable exceptions of Malcolm Marshall and John Emburey, they set the ball in motion, and not much more.

Haynes's hundred was his second crucial act of the piece. His first had been winning the toss and putting England in. Marshall, once the scourge of English batsmen in county and Test cricket, is completely shorn of hair these days, but he has not had his talent shaved away. Bowling at a less furious pace than in his pomp but making up for it with lateral movement either way off the seam, he did not take a wicket but, in a frugal spell, made sure that England would have to take risks in the middle of the innings.

England had scored only 62 runs off 127 balls when they lost their third wicket, but recovered, and then some. Gatting, whose bat was making that lovely thunk that denotes that man and willow are in perfect harmony, found an able lieutenant in the person of Paul Terry. They put on 154 runs in 22.1 overs, but the feeling at the close was that England could have done with another 25 runs. In an incident-packed first over from Peter Hartley, Haynes hit a six, a four and offered one murderously difficult chance to Gatting at mid-wicket. Who knows what might have happened had the England captain held the catch?

With Richards at his swaggering, strutting best, Haynes put on 134 runs for the third wicket and, by the time they were separated, the match was all but won and lost. England take on India today and, even if they win, they look likely to have to rely on the arcane calculation of run-rates for them to progress. Not that they will object: a final is a final is a final.

SCORES: England XI 231 for 4 (45 overs: M W Gatting 101 not out, V P Terry 65). West Indies XI 233 for 5 (D L Haynes 125 not out, I V A Richards 60; J E Emburey 3 for 31).



Haynes: fine hundred

☐ Brian Lara will not be playing county cricket next season after Warwickshire yesterday opted not to re-sign him. Lara had originally asked to be released from his three-year contract with the Britannic Assurance champions, claiming he was exhausted, but had since changed his mind and had said he would be prepared to play.

Warwickshire are now interested in signing Shaun Pollock, the South Africa fast bowler. Jonathan Barnett, Lara's agent, said a gentleman's agreement meant Lara would not play for another county.

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5

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O'Sullivan on way back after change of attitude

By Phil Yates

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN, enjoying the afterglow of his success in the Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge at the weekend, refuted the suggestion that a lack of dedication had been responsible for his dismal start to the season.

There was a school of thought that said O'Sullivan, who, at 17, became the youngest winner of a world-ranking tournament when he prevailed in the 1993 United Kingdom championship, had neglected practice because of a growing complacency.

"It was nothing to do with preparation; it was something wrong upstairs," O'Sullivan said, after beating John Higgins 9-6 to win a £30,000 prize, earn £100,000 for the National Deaf Children's Society and collect his first trophy since the Benson and Hedges Masters 11 months ago.

"I found it hard to focus on one single thing but someone who I consider to be a good friend told me I had to start concentrating all my attention on snooker," O'Sullivan, who has slipped from third to seventh in the provisional world rankings since September, said.

His problem was a bad attitude. He gave opponents scant respect but, in the Charity Challenge, while still playing with aggression, he curbed the tendency to pot on sight. By creating scoring opportunities rather than trying to force them, his break-building became more potent.

"I didn't play like that, intentionally, at the start of the season but I realise now that everyone in this game is capable of beating anyone else and I've learnt from experience," O'Sullivan, a first-round casualty in the Thailand Classic, Skoda Grand Prix and German Open, said.

Despite his defeat, Higgins, who eliminated Stephen Hendry, Jimmy White and Peter Ebdon, confirmed his status as one of the toughest players in the game.

Liberian receives global accolade despite dubious European Cup display

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ROB HUGHES

Overseas Football

The great and the good of football gathered in Milan last night to hail George Oppong Weah as the finest player on earth. Already voted African footballer of 1995 and the first non-European to receive the golden ball as player of the year in Europe, he was handed the Fifa world player award at a gala celebrating 100 years of the sports newspaper, *Gazzetta dello Sport*.

Unfortunately, Weah could not stay long enough to drink his own health. He had a plane to catch, to Johannesburg, where he will lead his nation, the small, war-ridden West African country of Liberia, in its first significant tournament, the African Nations Cup, which starts on Saturday.

How the Africans need him. The Nations Cup is already under a political cloud with the confirmation that Nigeria *will not defend the championship* after a call by Nelson Mandela, *the* president of South Africa, for sanctions *against the country after the* execution of nine dissidents last November.

As ever, sport and politics are *inseparable. But can the* many who gave so much *acclaim — and, last night, the* voters were the national team *managers round the globe — all* be wrong. In terms of skill, *Africa's contribution* to the international game, its *production of creative* ball-players and goalscorers, is more than welcome.

However, I would not have given Weah my vote because of something that happened during the semi-final of the European Cup between AC Milan and Paris Saint-Germain on April 19 last year.

That night, among a crowd of 74,000 at the San Siro, I suspected that Weah was wearing the wrong colours. He was representing Paris, but before the game had signed a contract effectively to defect to the opposition, to Milan, whom he joined in the summer.

Predictably, Paris were beaten; sadly, Weah performed way below his capabilities. Some months later, he dismissed accusations about his apparent lack of endeavour. "Absurd," he said. "I play every match 100 per cent. I can only score if the ball is put to me. It was not George Weah who played badly in that semi-final, it was the team of Paris."

Yet Weah was *the mirror of* his team. In the previous round, *he* was magnificent against Barcelona. His balance, *technique, strength* and awareness turned bad passes *into scoring opportunities*. He impressed me as the best *player in the world, running* his muscular frame into areas *of pain, riding* challenges, wriggling and turning, shooting *fearlessly*.

One could understand how he has become a *cult figure to Liberia,* whose team he is reportedly *helping to finance* in the African Nations Cup.

Fifa certainly believes in him. "Liberia is torn apart by civil war," a report in the magazine of football's world governing body stated, "a million and a half inhabitants have fled for their lives. But whenever Lone Star — as the national squad is called — play, everyone immediately downs his arms, everything comes to a standstill, and the party begins."

Football as a substitute for war? Even Fifa endorses the fantasy. It referred to Weah, 29, as "a mixture of godfather, coach, forward, captain, organiser, financier, provider and occasionally even nurse".

And it quoted Kenneth Jackson, a Liberian journalist, saying: "Weah is like a flame to us. As long as it burns, we can forget the suffering and pain, we can dream of freedom."

Weah would indeed appear to be all things to all men. It might seem a little churlish to question his achievements in 1995. Leading the other Liberian mercenaries — they play in Germany, France, Switzerland and elsewhere — to a leading tournament is worthy.

But second to him in the African poll was Japhet *N'doram, of Chad, whose* goals helped Nantes beat Paris *Saint-Germain to the French* title. Then came Finidi *George, of Nigeria, whose* intelligent play for Ajax earned *three medals* — the Dutch league and cup and the European Cup. And in that poll, remember, was Tony Yeboah, *of Ghana and* Leeds United, who regularly shoots *the goal of the month in* England.

For the European poll, run by *France Football* magazine, which broke 40 years of tradition to allow journalists from 50 countries to choose non-Europeans, Weah finished ahead of Jürgen Klinsmann and Jari Litmanen. Last night, of course, Weah was deemed superior to everyone. All those people — administrators in Africa, journalists in Europe, coaches everywhere — cannot be wrong. But maybe they forgot April 19. Maybe they forgave.

ADRIAN MURRELL/ALLSPORT

Weah's muscular skills have earned him awards and recognition on two continents

British heavyweight trio plans rise to top of the form

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

BRITISH interest in the world heavyweight championship should be sustained well into the next century. Frank Warren, the London promoter, has contracts with three young heavyweights, Wayne Llewellyn (Deptford), Danny Williams (Brixton) and Pele Reid (Sheffield). All three are in the mould of modern heavyweights, standing around 6ft 3in and weighting 16½ stone, and are being tipped for places in the top ten within the next two years.

With Warren's strong connections with Don King, the promoter of Mike Tyson, the three should have a good chance of challenging for the world title if they achieve their expected ranking.

Llewellyn, 21, has had 12 contests and won all inside the distance. He spent a year in the United States working alongside established heavyweights, including Riddick Bowe, and expects to challenge Scott Welch, of Shoreham, for the British and Commonwealth titles after two or three more contests. Williams, 21, has had only two contests and Reid, 22, a former world kick-boxing champion, just one.

Introducing them yesterday as members of his 11-strong "Class of '96", Warren, said: "The two young ones coming through, Danny Williams and Pele Reid, are both quality heavyweights. I would put Williams in with Frans Botha [the International Boxing Federation champion] tomorrow. Reid, being a kick-boxer, is a very tough customer.

"They have a really good opportunity with the King connection to get world title fights. They've got two hard years to learn their craft. They have to get 20 or so fights under their belt and we'll see how we go from there. When Lennox Lewis and Frank Bruno have retired, these guys will be very much up there."

Barry McGuigan, the former world featherweight champion, was particularly impressed with Williams. "He can box, hit and move and has a sound chin," McGuigan said. "He looked really impressive stopping his two opponents. He could go all the way."

Frank Bruno, who defends his World Boxing Council title against Mike Tyson on March 16 in Las Vegas, flies to Tenerife later this week to start training at the camp of Nigel Benn, who will be involved in his own super-middleweight defence, against Thulane Malinga, of South Africa, at Newcastle on March 2.

IN BRIEF

Persson tables qualifying intent

JORGEN PERSSON, the former world champion, heads a high-quality field for the Olympic table tennis qualifying tournament, which starts at the Nynex Arena in Manchester tomorrow (Richard Eaton writes). Persson was a member of three world-title winning Sweden teams as well as being European champion.

Among those representing the 35 competing nations will be Damien Eloi, of France, who won the English Open title in Cleveland last year and Mirjam Hooman, of Holland, who won the same title in Birmingham four years ago. Britain will be represented by Matthew Syed, Lisa Lomas, Andrea Holt and Alison Broe.

Davidson call

Rugby league: Warrington have signed Les Davidson, 33, the former Australia forward, as a temporary replacement on the overseas quota for Dave King, the prop forward, who has a broken wrist. Davidson had his first spell at the club eight years ago and is available in the short term, even though he is tied to the Australian Super League.

Allott in attack

Cricket: New Zealand have given Geoff Allott and Robert Kennedy the chance to form an experimental fast-bowling attack with the recalled Kerry Walmsley in the first Test match against Zimbabwe at Hamilton next week. Greg Loveridge, a leg spinner, is also called up for the first time.

NEW ZEALAND (from): G Allott, N J Astle, C L Cairns, S P Fleming, L K Germon (captain), R J Kennedy, G Loveridge, A C Parore, D N Patel, C Spearman, R G Twose, K J Walmsley, B A Young.

Foster's title

Rackets: Harry Foster, the favourite, won the Peel Hunt British under-21 championship, beating the unseeded Chris Charlton 15-9, 15-3, 15-7. Charlton was in pain after a mishit ball struck him on the ear during the first game.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

This was a tricky hand in the play from the first weekend of the new BBL Premier League season.

Dealer North **East - West vulnerable** **IMP's**

	♠A K J 10 ♥A 9 7 4 ♦K Q 5 ♣A 6	
♠7 5 2 ♥10 8 2 ♦10 9 6 ♣Q 8 5 2	N W E S	♠Q 9 8 3 ♥6 5 ♦J 8 3 2 ♣10 9 7
	♠6 4 ♥K Q J 3 ♦A 7 4 ♣K J 4 3	

Contract: Seven Hearts by South. Lead: Ten of Diamonds

North usually opened 2 NT (20-22) and after North - South found their heart fit it was just a question of how enthusiastic they became. Five tables settled for Six Hearts but three tables advanced to Seven Hearts, twice by North and once by South.

Declarer has 11 tricks on top — two spades, four hearts, three diamonds and two clubs. Against a red-suit lead, declarer can try to get two black-suit ruffs in one hand or the other. However, I think that the best line is to draw trumps. If trumps are 4-1, declarer takes two spade finesses. If trumps are 3-2, which black suit should declarer try first?

It is best to continue with ace, king, and a club ruff. If that does not bring down the queen, declarer falls back on his final chance, playing ace and king of spades. If the queen does not appear, the percentage play is to play a third round of spades and take the ruffing finesse. The reason why it is better to try clubs first is that there is no ruffing finesse available in that suit — playing spades first effectively wastes the last resort of the ruffing finesse.

The only declarer to play from the South hand received a spade lead through the A K J 10. He could have still drawn three rounds of trumps and played as suggested above but somehow or other he muddled it and went one down.

☐ The 1996 Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship will be played at The White House Hotel, Regent's Park, London, on January 24, 25 and 26. Tickets are available from The Macallan Box Office, 31 Queens Road, Mortlake, London SW14 8PH. Information: 0181-878 5844.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Fine defence

The Hastings Premier tournament produced an impressive number of fine fighting games. Amongst them was this defensive effort by Grandmaster Jon Speelman against the early leader Stuart Conquest.

Speelman overcame Conquest's initial efforts at aggression and by sacrificing two knights for a rook he eventually broke the back of White's resistance.

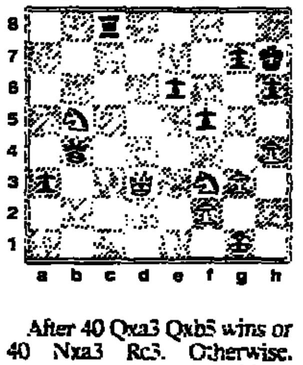
White: Stuart Conquest
Black: Jonathan Speelman
Hastings Premier, January 1996

Caro-Kann Defence

1	e4	c6
2	d4	d5
3	Nc3	dxe4
4	Nxe4	Nd7
5	Nf3	Ngf6
6	Ng3	c5
7	Be2	e6
8	0-0	Qc7
9	c4	cxd4
10	Qxd4	b6
11	Bf4	Qc5
12	Qc3	Bb7
13	Rad1	Be7
14	Ng5	0-0
15	Qc2	Rfd8
16	b4	Qc6
17	Bf3	Qc8
18	Bd6	Bxd6
19	Rxd6	Bxf3
20	Nxf3	Qc7
21	Rfd1	Nd5
22	Rxd7	Rxd7
23	Qe4	Rad8
24	cxd5	Rxd5
25	Rxd5	Rxd5
26	h4	h6
27	a4	Qc5
28	Qf4	Qxa4
29	Qb8+	Kh7
30	Qf8	Qd7
31	Qb8	Qe7
32	Qf4	a5
33	bxa5	bxa5
34	Ne4	Qb4
35	Qe3	a4
36	Nc3	Rd8
37	g3	Rc8
38	Qd3+	f5
39	Nb5	a3

White resigns

Diagram of final position



After 40 Qxa3 Qxb5 *wins or* 40 Nxa3 Rc3. Otherwise. *Black simply promotes his a-*pawn.

Chess for charity

On Saturday, January 20 I shall be giving a chess display, taking on all-comers to raise funds for the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit Appeal for St George's Hospital, Tooting. Those wishing to play or support the venture should contact Lucy DeVille, appeal co-ordinator, on 0181-725 5096.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HODEGETRIA
a. Old Man's Beard
b. A sign-post
c. A picture of the Virgin

MULLOCK
a. Nonsense
b. A fish
c. To court

HANGUL
a. A Filipina maid
b. A type of eagle
c. The Korean alphabet

MOFFIE
a. Toffee meringue pudding
b. A cat
c. An effeminate man

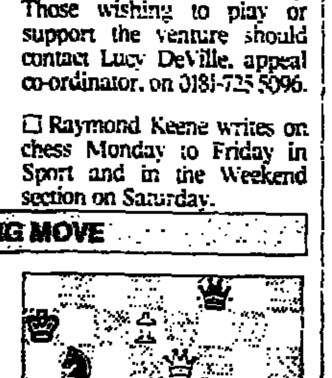
Answers on page 42

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to move. This position is from the game Adams - Szekely, Hastings Challengers 1987. Many British players have gained invaluable *international experience from* the various tournaments held in Hastings. Here we see the young Michael Adams scoring an early success in the challengers event. White to play and win.

Solution on page 42



FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): Play-off: AFC: Indianapolis 10 Kansas City 7. NFC: Dallas 30 Philadelphia 11

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): LA Clippers 101 Vancouver 93, Dallas 117 Boston 96, Denver 96 LA Lakers 93; Portland 113 Minnesota 97.
BUDWEISER LEAGUE: London 76 Leicester 53, Leopards 80 Birmingham 73, Doncaster 76 Derby Storm 78; Sheffield 101 Newcastle 56.
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Bury 64 Brixton 69, Cardiff 88 Oldham and Rochdale 80, Coventry 81 Mid-Sussex 64, Plymouth 120 Stockton 85, Solent 76 Nottingham 90. Women: First division: Rhondda 80 Thames Valley 30, Spelthorne 72 London 48.

BOWLS

ATHERLEY TROPHY: Second round: Cumbria 134 Yorkshire 118. Lincolnshire 125 Nottinghamshire 114. Norfolk 116 Cambridgeshire 102. Northamptonshire 126 Warwickshire 119. Surrey 118 Middlesex 103. Oxfordshire 127 Buckinghamshire 112. Berkshire 111 Dorset 101; Devon 141 Cornwall 83.
LLANELLI: CIS Welsh indoor championships: Quarter-finals. Singles: C Lewis (Merthyr Tydfil) bt P Roberts (Ogwr) 21-10; M Morgan (Llanelli) bt S Rees (Swansea) 21-10; J Price (Swansea) bt P Dimera (Heatherton) 21-12; B Powell (Port Talbot) bt A Mathias (Ogwr) 21-12. Under-25: B Evans (Earlswood) bt A Price (Dinefwr) 21-13; A Bushell (Newport) bye; N Rees (Llanelli) bt W Phillips (Radnorshire) 21-15; N Collett (Cardiff) bt N Jones (Ogwr) 21-18. Semi-finals: Bushell bt Evans 21-14; Rees bt Collett 21-13. Final: Bushell bt Rees 21-17. Welsh international trial: Yellows 122 Blues 111. Rink scores (Yellows skips first): R Williams 20 N Leight 20; J Greenslade 30 C Taylor 15, D Wilkins 14 J Price 20; S Rees 24 R Burden 15, M Jenkins 20 R Weale 17; P Rolands 14 M Kent 24.
STEVENAGE: England international trial: Reds 112 Whites 109. Rink scores (Reds skips first): I Jenkins 11 A Allcock 31, K Smith 13 D Ward 23; A Thompson 23 S Thomas 10, J Wickham 23 G Harlow 16, W Richards 15 G Smith 22, J Bell 27 N Jones 7.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Perth (final day of four): South Australia 235 and 390 (D Lehmann 161, G Blewett 96). Western Australia 377 and 209-9 (M Lavender 55, J Langer 51 not out, J Gillespie 6-68). Match drawn.

	P	W	D	L	Pts
N S Wales	4	3	1	0	18
South Australia	5	2	1	2	14
Queensland	5	2	2	1	12
W Australia	5	1	3	1	12
Tasmania	4	1	1	2	8
Victoria	5	0	2	3	4

WHANGAREI, New Zealand: Tour match *(final day of three):* Zimbabweans 274-7 dec and 207-4 dec (G Flower 53, A Campbell 59 not out). New Zealand *Academy XI 213-1 dec and 109-1*

DARTS

FRIMLEY GREEN, Surrey: Embassy World Professional Championship: Final: S Beaton (Eng) bt R Burnett (Wales) 6-3

GOLF

CARLSBAD, California: Mercedes championship: Final scores (US unless stated): 271: M O'Meara 68, 69, 68, 66. 274: S Hoch 69, 69, 70, 66; N Faldo (GB) 70, 69, 68, 67. 276: R Tway 71, 69, 70, 66. 277: B Bryant 70, 70, 69, 68. 278: D Love III 72, 71, 67, 68. 279: D Waldorf 71, 70, 69, 69; L Janzen 71, 65, 72, 71; C Pavin 67, 71, 70, 71; J Gallagher 71, 67, 70, 71. 280: B Crenshaw 69, 71, 69, 71. 282: P Stewart 74, 69, 71, 68; L Roberts 71, 71, 70, 70; T Lehman 71, 69, 72, 70. 283: K Perry 70, 74, 70, 69. 284: F Funk 70, 73, 72, 69. 285: S Elkington (Aus) 70, 72, 70, 73. 286: G Norman (Aus) 73, 73, 73, 67. 287: H Sutton 76, 73, 69, 69; W Mayfair 73, 75, 69, 70; D A Weibring 69, 75, 72, 71. 288: J Morse 74, 71, 72, 71; J Furyk 74, 68, 72, 74. 289: V Singh (Fiji) 73, 71, 72, 73; M Calcavecchia 73, 69, 72, 75.

HOCKEY

CARDIFF: Under-18 international matches: Wales 2 England 7; Wales 0 England 3.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Chicago 5 Dallas 2, Edmonton 3 Anaheim 1.
BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Humberside 0 Durham 4; Newcastle 7 Milton Keynes 13; Nottingham 5 Basingstoke 3, Sheffield 9 Fife 1. First division: Blackburn 7 Swindon 5, Bracknell 8 Telford 4; Dumfries 15 Billingham 1; Manchester 9 Paisley 1; Peterborough 16 Murrayfield 3, Solihull 7 Medway 7.

NETBALL

COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Bedfordshire 48 Hertfordshire 33; Surrey 65 Birmingham 37; East Sussex 45 East Metropolitan 71, Middlesex 48 Gloucestershire 32.

RACKETS

QUEENS CLUB: Peel Hunt British under-21 championship: Semi-finals: H Foster bt R Walker 15-11, 15-10, 18-14; C Charlton bt C Walsh 15-11, 15-6, 10-15, 15-5. Final: Foster bt Charlton 15-9, 15-3, 15-7.

REAL TENNIS

QUEENS CLUB: BNB Resources Professional doubles championship (GB unless stated): Quarter-finals: C Bray and M Gooding bt H Latham and D Johnson 6-2, 6-1, P Tabley (Aus) and R Gunn bt C Lumley (Aus) and A Lyons 6-1, 6-2; N Wood and A Phillips bt S Ronaldson and A Belgrove 2-6, 6-5, 6-2; L Deuchar (Aus) and J Howell bt D Jones and M Ryan 6-3, [illegible]

RIFLE SHOOTING

TRENTHAM: Wellington Rifle Association meeting: 300yds (10 shots twice): 1, C Millett (London and Middx) 98; 2, N Brazier (London and Middx) 97. 900yds (10 shots): 1, J Scobie (London and Middx) 50.8; 2, D Collings (NZ) 50.7. Long-range aggregate (800 and 900 yards): 1, D Crow (NZ) 101.15; 2, Scobie 100.14.

TENNIS

DOHA: Men's tournament: Final: P Korda (Cz) bt Y el-Aynaoui (Mor) 7-6, 2-6, 7-6.
SWANSEA: LTA Reebok tour: Finals: Men: C Wilkinson (Hants) bt T Spinks (Norfolk) 6-4, 6-2. Women: E Bond (Glous) bt K Cross (Devon) 7-5, 6-1.
AUCKLAND: Men's tournament: First round: C Ruud (Nor) bt A Hunt (NZ) 3-6, 6-3, 6-1; D Rikl (Cz) bt J Hlasek (Switz) 7-6, 6-2; S Pescosolido (It) bt V Spadea (US) 6-2, 6-4; M Washington (US) bt K Carlsen (Den) 6-3, 6-3; G Forget (Fr) bt F Meligeni (Br) 6-0, 6-2; J Gumy (Arg) bt C-U Steeb (Ger) 4-6, 7-5, 7-6; F Clavet (Sp) bt S Downs (NZ) 6-4, 6-3; A Corretja (Sp) bt J Greenhalgh (NZ) 7-5, 6-2.
SYDNEY: Peters International tournament: Men: First round: T Martin (US) bt M Stich (Ger) 6-1, 6-2; C Costa (Sp) bt B Ulbrich (Cz) 6-4, 5-7, 6-4; R Fromberg (Aus) bt A Boetsch (Fr) 4-6, 6-3, 6-3; R Furlan (It) bt M Rios (Chile) 6-1, 7-6. Women: First round: N Bradtke (Aus) bt K Nowak (Pol) 6-1, 6-1; M de Swardt (SA) bt S Appelmans (Bel) 6-7, 7-6, 6-5 ret; A Coetzer (SA) bt R Stubbs (Aus) 6-2, 6-0; A Carlsson (Swe) bt H Sukova (Cz) 4-6, 6-3, 7-5; A Frazier (US) bt A Gavaldon (Mex) 7-5, 7-5; C Rubin (US) bt L McNeil (US) 6-2, 6-2.
HOBART: Women's tournament: First round: J Wiesner (Austria) bt L Lee (US) 6-2, 6-3; E Likhovtseva (Russ) bt E Makarova (Russ) 6-2, 4-6, 6-1; Shi-Ting Wang (Taiwan) bt L Richterova (Cz) 6-2, 6-4; M Endo (Japan) bt T Whitlinger-Jones (US) 6-1, 6-4; K Godridge (Aus) bt K Studenikova (Slovakia) 2-6, 7-6, 6-3.

VOLLEYBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: *First division:* Tooting Aquila 3 KLEA Leeds 0; Sheffield 0 Newcastle (Staffs) 3; Whitefield 2 Warwick Riga 3; Team Mizuno Malory Lewisham 3 Manchester Utd Salford 0; Polonia Ealing 3 Reebok Liverpool City 1. Women: First division: Reebok Liverpool City 3 Orpington 1.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	15	70	good	varied	icy	sun	-4	7/1
(Good skiing, dusting of fresh snow on hard base)								
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	20	70	fair	heavy	art	cloud	1	8/1
(Good skiing on upper slopes, very poor visibility)								
Mayrhofen	5	40	good	varied	closed	snow	-1	8/1
(Fresh snow but poor visibility, all lifts open)								
Obergurgl	75	115	good	powder	good	fine	-3	8/1
(Excellent skiing with new snow, all lifts open)								
FRANCE								
Les Arcs	55	200	good	powder	good	fine	-1	7/1
(Superb sunny skiing with 10cm fresh snow)								
Avoriaz	95	125	good	varied	good	fine	-1	7/1
(Excellent skiing under sunny skies)								
La Tania	65	95	good	varied	fair	fine	-2	7/1
(15cm new snow, great skiing above 1,600m)								
Val d'Isère	90	150	good	powder	good	sun	-1	7/1
(Excellent skiing in beautiful sunny conditions)								
Val Thorens	70	110	good	powder	good	sun	-1	7/1
(Excellent skiing everywhere, all 3 vallees links open)								
ITALY								
Bormio	30	90	good	powder	fair	fair	0	7/1
(vastly-improved skiing after fresh snow)								
SWITZERLAND								
Arosa	40	60	good	fair	fair	fine	-1	8/1
(Dusting of fresh snow, good piste skiing)								
C Montana	10	120	fair	powder	closed	sun	1	7/1
(Fresh snow but worn patches reappearing low down)								
Klosters	20	85	good	varied	good	fair	3	7/1
(Good skiing on majority of pistes, odd stony patch)								
Verbier	90	120	good	varied	worn	sun	-2	7/1
(Great skiing above 2,200m, rocky on low home runs)								
Villars	30	110	fair	varied	closed	fine	5	7/1
(Pistes good at higher levels, low level links shut)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes, U - upper; art - artificial.

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SKI CLUB

Pentire among select band of 14 invited to compete for $4 million prize

Waiting on Cigar to light up Dubai Cup

By Julian Muscat

THE inaugural Dubai World Cup may be dripping with financial incentives but never before has any horse race attracted the quality of runners queueing up for the £4 million prize, which will be staged over ten furlongs on dirt at Nad Al Sheba racecourse on March 27.

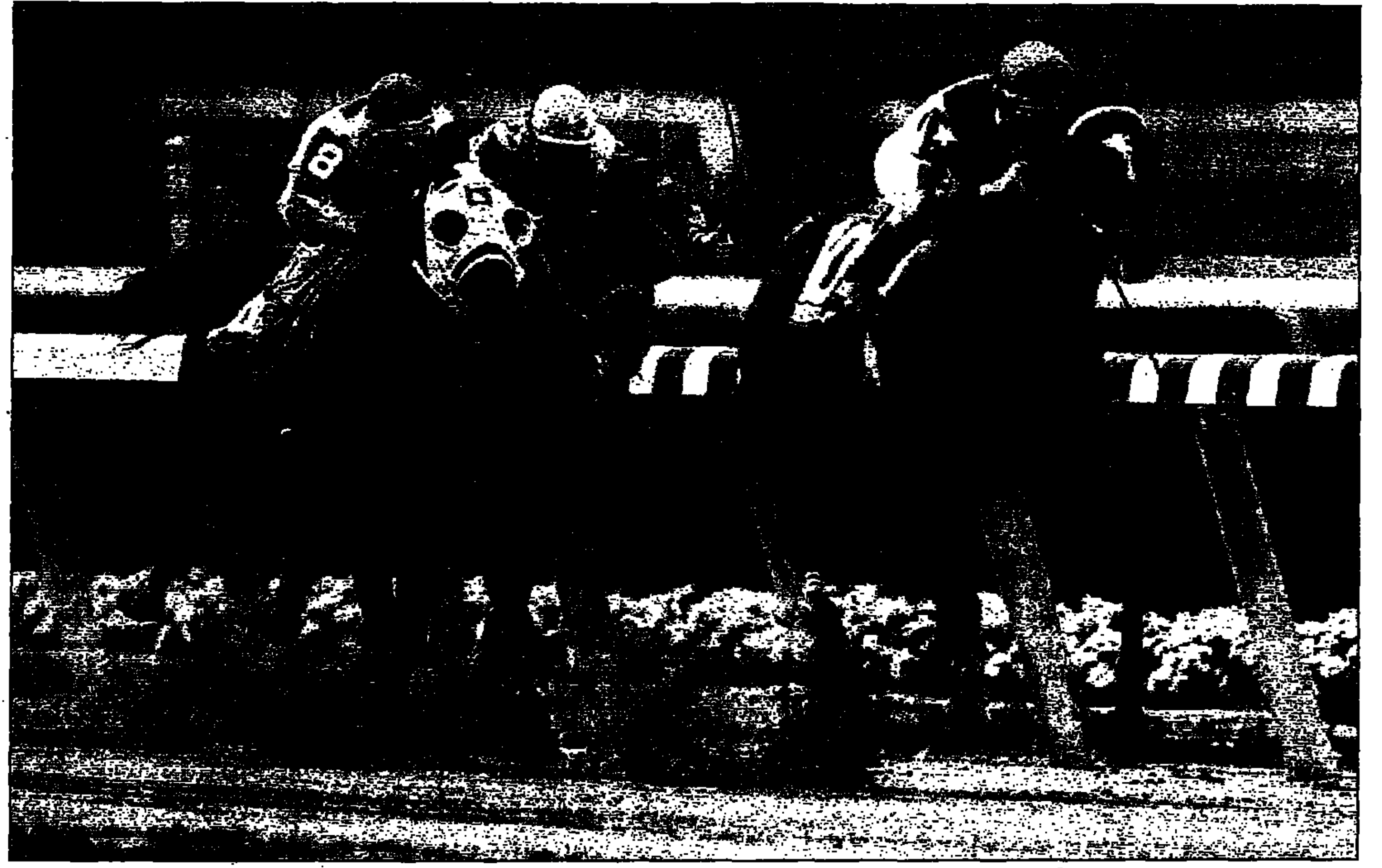
Europe has been allocated three places in an international field of 14. Freedom Cry, Pennekamp and Pentire, selected from 16 entrants by a panel of handicappers, comprise the highest-rated older horses kept in training. Celtic Swing was nominated at the second entry stage last week by his owner, Peter Savill, but the four-year-old has failed to make the provisional field. He is Europe's first reserve.

[illegible]

Nap: ROBELLION
(2.30 Lingfield Park)
Next best: Master Orchestra
(2.15 Leicester)

Pride of place, however, goes to Cigar, who is expected to front the American challenge. The winner of his last 12 starts, ten of them in 1995, Cigar's place in the field has yet to be confirmed. Three American racetracks have dangled the carrot of a $3 million bonus in an effort to keep Cigar at home.

As yet, however, the bonus is not on the table. The tracks concerned are struggling to raise a sponsor and failure to make good their pledge would increase the chances of Cigar's participation. "Whether or not the bonus is available will have a bearing on the final decision," a spokesman said.



Cigar, a convincing winner of the Breeders' Cup Classic at Belmont Park, heads the American challenge for the Dubai World Cup

Freedom Cry and *Pennekamp, both trained by* André Fabre at Chantilly, are definite runners. Pennekamp, owned by Sheikh Mohammed, is to travel to Dubai on January 20, more than two months before the race, and Fabre will be there to super*vise his training* programme. The 2,000 Guineas winner, who has not run since injuring himself in Lammtarra's Derby at Epsom, is the mount of Thierry Jarnet.

"Pennekamp has been cantering for six weeks now," *Anthony Stroud, racing man*ager to Sheikh Mohammed, said. "He is going well and the plan is for him to have a prep race in *Dubai* three weeks beforehand, hopefully over a mile or nine furlongs. After the race he will go back to *France with Fabre and race* from his stable through the season."

Daniel Wildenstein, who owns Freedom Cry, was full of optimism over the five-year-old's challenge. "We deliberately kept him back from the *Japan Cup to run in Dubai.* The horse has never been as well as he is now. I am very confident he will run well because he can handle any type of ground. He has been galloping better than ever on dirt. Fabre says the horse is *made of steel and he, too, is* sure Freedom Cry will run a big race. We are very much looking forward to it."

Geoff Wragg, who trains Pentire at Newmarket, is to consult the colt's connections before committing the four-year-old to the Dubai event. "*We wanted to see if Pentire* was given a place in the line-up before we talked about having a go. Obviously, he has never raced on dirt but I wouldn't have thought the surface would be a problem," Wragg said.

The European contingent will face stiff opposition from Dubai's Godolphin stable. Its four representatives are Annus Mirabilis, Cezanne, *Moonshell and Halling. Si*mon Crisford, Godolphin's racing manager, said all four horses would have prep races in February and early March.

"Cezanne and Moonshell have been off with leg injuries so we'll see how they progress," Crisford said. "Halling is in good shape and Annus Mirabilis has settled down well since he arrived late last year. We do have some reserves just in case we have to change our plans, but all four are intended runners at this stage." Lanfranco Dettori will have the choice of mounts.

It would mean a lot to Sheikh Mohammed, the inspiration behind Godolphin, to *keep the prize at home.* Whatever the outcome, the sheikh can reflect that his $4 million challenge has attracted the *best horses from five conti*nents, including Mahogany, the winner of ten group one races in Australia.

Rivals put pressure on Cardiff position

By a Correspondent

SHEFFIELD Steelers and Nottingham Panthers, having shared a 3-3 draw in their British ice hockey league encounter on Saturday, went on to record comfortable victories on Sunday, over Fife Flyers and Basingstoke Bison respectively, thereby maintaining pressure on Cardiff Devils, the leaders.

Sheffield were indebted to Tony Hand, Nicky Chinn and Ron Shudra, who each scored twice in a 9-1 victory, Andy Samuel providing the late consolation for the Scottish visitors.

Injuries deprived Nottingham of the services of Graham Waghorn, Darren Durdle and Simon Hunt but Mike *Blaisdell, their player-coach,* provided the required inspiration, scoring twice in each of the first two periods as his side emerged 5-3 winners. Kevin Conway scored twice in three minutes to reduce the arrears but the home side's two-goal advantage was never breached.

Durham Wasps took sole possession of fourth with a 4-0 away win against Humberside Hawks in a game in which both teams were missing influential players. The only goal of the first two periods was scored by Janne Seva, a recent Durham recruit from Finland, but Kip Noble (twice) and Kim Issel scored in *the first ten minutes of the* final period to settle the contest.

Newcastle remain adrift at *the foot of the table, despite* strengthening their side with the much-travelled Tim Salmon. He scored a goal, and *another recent acquisition,* Scott Morrison, collected a hat-trick in their 13-7 home defeat by Milton Keynes Kings. Scott Young, *playing* in his second game since joining Milton Keynes from Humberside, was in outstanding form for his new club, contributing five goals and two assists.

LEICESTER

THUNDERER

12.45 Around The Gale
1.15 Golden Torque
1.45 Antartictern
2.15 Master Orchestra
2.45 Callisoe Bay
3.15 Storm Drum
3.45 AINSI SOIT IL (nap)

GOING: GOOD (CHASE COURSE); SOFT, WITH HEAVY PATCHES (HURDLES) SIS

12.45 NOMAD NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £3,171: 2m) (16 runners)

1	21-56	AROUND THE GALE 26 (S) (T Whitley) D Gandolfo 5-11-5	M Dwyer	89
2		BLACK ICE BOY 54F (The Omega Racing Club) R Bastiman 5-11-5	H Bastiman (3)	—
3		COUNT OF FLANDERS 804F (M C Morgan) K Morgan 6-11-5	A S Smith	—
4	35-50	FRED'S BOY 38 (F Williams) J Wade 5-11-5	D Bentley	60
5	1-5	GORDON 25 (S) (Mrs C Pitt) R Brotherton 5-11-5	L Harvey	80
6	P	HEALTHY RISK 31 (T Kersey) T Kersey 5-11-5	Susan Kersey	—
7	3	INDEFENCE 31 (Index Limited) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-5	W Marston	96
8		JUST FLAMENCO 22F (Mrs S Martin) M Ryan 5-11-5	J Ryan	—
9	0	MASTER PANGLOSS 28 (Equi Steeplechasing) A Turnell 6-11-5	S McNeill	—
10	00U0	MILO BOY 20 (A Norris) M Chapman 5-11-5	W Worthington	—
11	1-	SUPREME GENOTIN 326 (S) (I Stott) J Old 7-11-5	J Osborne	—
12		YOUNG LUCKY 391F (The Young Lucky Partnership) J Akehurst 5-11-5	J Leech	—
13	10	HOUSE DEED 116 (BF,F) (J Jones) A Hide 6-11-0	P Hide	—
14	5	WORTH THE WAIT 68 (J Walker) F Jordan 5-11-0	J Lodder	—
15	P0	FEISTY BOSS 81 (Ms J Collings) N Twiston-Davies 4-10-7	C Llewellyn	—
16	56	FOREST MILL 40 (Non-Stop Promotions & Marketing) J Spearing 4-10-2	D Bridgwater	80

BETTING: 7-4 Around The Gale, 3-1 Indefence, 6-1 Supreme Genotin, 10-1 Just Flamenco, 12-1 others.

1995: GREAT MARQUESS 8-11-12 D Bridgwater (2-5 fav) N Twiston-Davies 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

AROUND THE GALE about 5l 6th of 16 to Mandys Mantino in novice hurdle at Towcester (2m, soft). GORDON 36l 5th of 16 to Crack On in maiden hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, good). INDEFENCE 7l 3rd of 14 to Crown Equerry in novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, good). SUPREME GENOTIN beat Camp Bank 7l in 18-runner National Hunt Flat race at Sandown (2m 110yd, heavy). FEISTY BOSS 61l 11th of 14 to Executive Design in novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good). FOREST MILL 18l 5th of 15 to Prophets Honour in novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good to firm) on penultimate start.

Selection: AROUND THE GALE (nap)

1.15 NOMAD NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £3,171: 2m) (16 runners)

1		ADMIRAL HOOD 315F (M Vries) K Morgan 5-11-5	A S Smith	—
2	0-	ALLEGRO PRINCE 241 (D Caro) D Caro 5-11-5	D Bridgwater	—
3	0	BARONCELLI 24 (The Gardeners) M Wilkinson 6-11-5	R Supple	77
4	B-5P	DONTFORGET INSIGHT 35 (T Neill) C Brooks 5-11-5	G Bradley	75
5	645/	GOLDEN TORQUE 57F (T Smith) R Bastiman 9-11-5	H Bastiman (3)	—
6	0	LAKE NONA 24 (J Sunley) Miss H Knight 5-11-5	J F Titley	—
7	6	SCOTTISH BAMBI 25 (W Bilby) P Webber 6-11-5	G McCourt	72
8	URSP-	SIMPLY A SEQUEL 320 (J Craddock) C Jackson 5-11-5	W Humphreys	81
9	0P	SOMMARIVA STAR 88 (Ms A Deeks) R Harris 6-11-5	B Powell	72
10	50	TROUVAILLE 24 (G Payne) A Turnell 5-11-5	L Harvey	85
11	3	FAIRIES FAREWELL 32 (I Sherwood) S Sherwood 6-11-0	G Upton	—
12	044-	INDIAN SUMMIT 238 (F Ansbury) Mrs M Jones 6-11-0	D Byrne	76
13		RUBY PLUS 572F (Mrs D Morris) G Oldroyd 5-11-0	P Midgley (3)	—
14	0	SPRINGFIELD RHYME 16 (The Equus Club) R Stronge 5-11-0	R Stronge	—
15	30	JARVEY 80 (B Lewendon) P Eccles 4-10-7	A P McCoy	—
16	4	TONYS GIFT 33 (The Blue Chip Group) M Pipe 4-10-2	J Osborne	89

BETTING: 2-1 Tonys Gift, 5-1 Fairies Farewell, [illegible]1 Dontforget Insight, 8-1 Golden Torque, 10-1 others.

1995: NO CORRESPONDING DIVISION

FORM FOCUS

DONTFORGET INSIGHT about 12½l 5th of 8 to Belbra in maiden hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good to firm) on penultimate start. GOLDEN TORQUE about 15l 5th of 12 to Five To Seven in novice hurdle at Catterick (2m, good to soft) Feb 1994. SCOTTISH BAMBI 41l 6th of 13 to Crack On in maiden hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, good). SIMPLY A SEQUEL about 35¾l 5th of 7 to Balanak in novice hurdle at Towcester (2m, heavy) on penultimate start. INDIAN SUMMIT 15¾l 4th of 9 to Gemillosh in novice hurdle at Perth (2m 110yd, soft). TONYS GIFT about 5l 4th of 25 to Mill Thyme in novice hurdle at Nottingham (2m, good).

Selection: TONYS GIFT

1.45 DOVE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,449: 2m) (22 runners)

1	15504P	CELCIUS 26 (B,CD,F,G,S) (Martin Pipe Racing Club) M Pipe 12-12-0	D Bridgwater	95
2	60-0P51	HAWTHORNE GLEN 26 (D,F,S) (Mrs G Davison) Mrs M Long 9-11-12	B Fenton (5)	90
3	4R66-42	ANTARTICTERN 32 (J Wright) G Oldroyd 6-11-6	P Midgley (3)	90
4	05P3-PP	ERLEMO 54 (V,S) (T Whalley) W Clay 7-11-4	Guy Lewis (3)	94
5	202050-	EASTERN MAGIC 221 (F,G) (The Chase Racing Club) G Barnett 8-11-3	D Walsh (5)	89
6	6-3P364	DESERT PRESIDENT 6 (B) (P Mooney) R Hoad 5-11-3	G Bradley	80
7	4/31/4-3	NIDOMI 26 (V,F) (D Lea) G Enright 9-11-2	J R Kavanagh	90
8	00	LAWNSWOOD LADY 3 (Mrs M Park) Mrs F Owen 4-11-2	L Aspell (5)	—
9	0/0540-0	MY LINDIANNE 34 (G,S) (B Sale) J Dooler 9-10-13	A Maguire	84
10	143303-	STRIKE-A-POSE 197F (D,S) (Four Star Club) B Llewellyn 6-10-12	Mr J L Llewellyn	97
11	01U1/4-P	TOUCH SILVER 48 (D,S) (H Manners) H Manners 6-10-11	Mr A Wintle (7)	—
12	D32D00	KILLING TIME 25 (V) (B Saul) Mrs L Richards 5-10-9	M Richards	92
13	P03	KIRDAKOOLA 4F (D Cooper) M Chapman 5-10-9	W Worthington	84
14	0P/FF-	PRIDEWOOD PICKER 255 (Mrs B Morris) R Price 9-10-8	A P McCoy	—
15	FP006-8	URBAN LILY 8 (Mrs P Cole) R Hodges 6-10-8	T Dascombe (5)	88
16	0PS5-	DRUMDONNA 164F (Mrs M Beaumont) P Beaumont 6-10-7	R Supple	60
17	6F0	PATS LADS 40 (J Oakley) D Burchell 4-10-3	D J Burchell	—
18	6080	DOZEN DIRHAM 5 (B) (Mrs S Blakeley) J Norton 4-10-3	W Fry	87
19	60/460	DISTANT HOME 38 (B) (P Newell) A Jones 8-10-2	S Curran (3)	84
20	345	RARO 42 (Mrs A Bly) Mrs L Jewell 5-10-0	W Walsh (7)	80
21	P-00P	STYLISH BLAKE 20 (J Downey) R Hollinshead 7-10-0	M W Martin (7)	—
22	4P-P	KERAK 47 (Mrs J Milligan) Miss M Milligan 6-10-0	M Foster	—

Long handicap: Raro 9-11, Stylish Blake 9-8, Kerak 9-4.

BETTING: 7-2 Antartictern, 9-2 Hawthorne Glen, 5-1 Nidomi, 6-1 Celcius, 10-1 Drumdonna, 12-1 Desert President, 14-1 Kirdakoola, 16-1 others.

1995: LOFTY DEED 5-10-8 G Bradley (6-1) W Musson 16 ran

FORM FOCUS

CELCIUS 27l 4th of 15 to Spring Saint in handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, good to soft) on penultimate start. HAWTHORNE GLEN beat Nawrad 7l in 11-runner selling handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m, soft) with NIDOMI (12lb better off) 8l 3rd and CELCIUS (16lb better off) pulled up 2 out. ANTARTICTERN 6l 2nd of 11 to Mr Moriarty in conditional jockeys' novice handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good to firm). DESERT PRESIDENT 21l 4th of 11 to Valiant Toski in selling hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy). STRIKE-A-POSE 13l 3rd of 10 to Salman in selling handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, good to firm).

Selection: HAWTHORNE GLEN

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TRAINERS: O Sherwood, 5 winners from 14 runners, 35.7%; N Henderson, 6 from 17, 35.3%; J White, 5 from 15, 33.3%; N Twiston-Davies, 5 from 18, 27.8%; M Pipe, 20 from 75, 26.7%; *D. Nicholson, 12 from 46, 26.1%.*

JOCKEYS: C Llewellyn, 6 winners from 27 rides, 22.2%; M Dwyer, 4 from 19, 21.1%; J R Kavanagh, 3 from 15, 20.0%; M A Fitzgerald, 6 from 31, 19.4%; R Dunwoody, 11 from 58, 19.0%; M Richards, 3 from 16, 18.8%.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 .. B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — *refused. D — disqualified) Horse's name.* Days since last outing: J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

2.15 BREEDON NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£4,521: 3m) (15 runners)

1	35-11F1	BRAMBLEHILL BUCK 29 (B,S) (P Barber) P Nicholls 7-12-0	A P McCoy	85
2	PP-2F1	MASTER ORCHESTRA 35 (D,S) (Hatchet Partnership) Miss H Knight 7-11-7	J F Titley	85
3	40/245-P	MINTY'S FOLLY 55 (Mrs C Smith) D Nicholson 6-11-4	DOUBTFUL	—
4	2505-P3	LYME GOLD 26 (N Chamberlain) O Sherwood 7-11-4	J Osborne	80
5	2265-24	*GARRYLOUGH 38 (G) (T Whitley) D Gandolfo 7-11-4*	*M Dwyer*	86
6	/3320/6	MAN FOR ALL SEASON 6 (S) (S Barfield) R Hodges 10-11-4	T Dascombe (5)	—
7	P1P-F52	UNIVERSAL MAGIC 134 (G) (Universal Conference & Incentive) C Brooks 7-11-3	G Bradley	82
8	34-FF23	GLENFINN PRINCESS 46 (S) (P McGinty) Mrs M Jones 8-11-1	D Byrne	90
9	4542-84	NATIVE MONY 39 (T Hemmings) M Hammond 7-10-9	Mr C Bonner (3)	84
10	0/643-53	BIG ARTHUR 25 (Lord Vestey) D Nicholson 7-10-8	A Maguire	80
11	28/2-F	*GARRISON COMMANDER 54 (BF) (R Ogden) A Turnell 7-10-6*	*P Carberry*	86
12	53-F512	AIRTRAK 21 (CD,F) (Amtrak Express Parcels Ltd) N Henderson 7-10-3	M A Fitzgerald	89
13	0P/33	LONG REACH 67 (T Pope) N Twiston-Davies 8-10-0	C Llewellyn	87
14	34544-P	APRIL CITY 27 (S) (T Goorley) C Smith 7-10-0	M Ranger	72
15	F406-PP	LO-FLYING MISSILE 25 (B Clifford) R Dickin 8-10-0	R Bellamy	—

Long handicap: Long Reach 9-11, April City 9-10, Lo-Flying Missile 8-13.

BETTING: 9-2 Master Orchestra, 5-1 Bramblehill Buck, 11-2 Airtrak, 6-1 Garrison Commander, 8-1 others.

1995: GENERAL WOLFE 6-10-9 J R Kavanagh (10-1) T Forster 17 ran

FORM FOCUS

*BRAMBLEHILL BUCK beat Clear Idea 5l in 10-*runner handicap chase at Newton Abbot (2m 5f 110yd, soft). MASTER ORCHESTRA beat Sedge Warbler 3½l in 17-runner maiden chase at Huntingdon (3m, good to soft). LYME GOLD 9½l 3rd of 10 to Peruvian Gale in novice handicap chase at Southwell (3m 110yd, good). GARRYLOUGH ¾l 2nd of 6 to Reve En Rose in novice chase at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft). GLENFINN PRINCESS 18l 3rd of 4 to Act The Wag in novice chase at Newbury (3m, good).

Selection: MASTER ORCHESTRA

2.45 GROBY NOVICES CHASE (£3,845: 2m 1f) (15 runners)

1	5-36F41	AEDEAN 19 (S) (M Orpen-Palmer) G Enright 7-11-9	J R Kavanagh	60
2	250-P13	CALLISOE BAY 33 (BF,G,S) (R Waters) O Sherwood 7-11-9	J Osborne	89
3	2FP-451	*MAGELLAN BAY 31 (G) (Autolux Engineering) Mrs J Pitman 8-11-9*	R Farrant	67
4	1431/2-3	ARCTIC KINSMAN 29 (BF,G,S) (Mrs R Hambro) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-3	C Llewellyn	—
5	50S50P-	BALAAT 293 (F) (A Mann) M Chapman 8-11-3	W Worthington	—
6	F0/4/P/	COPPER CABLE 718 (Dowager Lady Scott) C Smith 9-11-3	M Ranger	—
7	/A/00P0-	COUNTRY KEEPER 257 (B Ryall) B Ryall 8-11-3	T Dascombe (5)	—
8	0-	FATHER TIM 284F (L Bowles) J Bradley 5-11-3	R Johnson (3)	—
9	4P-	*JACK THE TD 341 (Mrs L Taylor) Mrs L Taylor 7-11-3*	R Supple	—
10	23/33-03	PETE THE PARSON 19 (BF) (W Stott) J Old 7-11-3	T Grantham	—
11	280433-	PORT IN A STORM 253 (S) (J Doyle Construction) M Hammond 7-11-3	Mr C Bonner (3)	56
12	101305	SOUTHAMPTON 25 (F,G,S) (Highflyers) G Balding 6-11-3	A P McCoy	—
13	6/0	SPARTS FAULT 25 (Tidmarsh Racing Club) P Eccles 6-11-3	Chris Webb (5)	—
14	P-00	STORMING ROY 26 (J Adam) A Turnell 6-11-3	L Harvey	—
15	245323/	*SUPER COIN 584 (F,S) (G Brookes) R Lee 8-11-3*	*A Maguire*	—

BETTING: 10-11 Callisoe Bay, 4-1 Arctic Kinsman, 6-1 Magellan Bay, 10-1 Southampton, 12-1 others.

1995: *BARNA BOY 7-11-3 M Fitzgerald (10-11 fav) N Henderson 11 ran*

FORM FOCUS

CALLISOE BAY disputing lead when fell last in novice chase won by Ask Tom at Nottingham (2m, good). ARCTIC KINSMAN best effort beat Pridwell 8l in 18-runner grade I Citroen Supreme Novices' Hurdle (2m 110yd, good to soft) in March 1994 with SUPER COIN 8l 5th. Previously beat SUPER COIN 5l in novice hurdle at Kempton (2m, good to soft) with COPPER CABLE (6lb worse off) tailed off when pulled up 5th. SOUTHAMPTON best recent effort 8l and neck 3rd of 10 to Eskimo Nel in handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good).

Selection: CALLISOE BAY

3.15 CHIEFTAIN CLAIMING HURDLE (£2,700: 3m) (20 runners)

1	2/P2-30	GRACE CARD 31 (D,G,S) (G Farndon) R Woodhouse 10-11-10	M Dwyer	—
2	5UU4PP-	ROCKTOR 420 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs L Griffiths) N Twiston-Davies 11-11-10	A Shakespeare	—
3	20/P-6F6	STORM DRUM 33 (B,D,F,G,S) (Mrs S Fergusson) K Bailey 7-11-10	T J Murphy (3)	80
4	4R030-6	THREEOUTOFFOUR 45 (G,S) (R Baker) J Norton 11-11-10	W Fry	89
5	3-16138	PERSIAN VIEW 26 (G,S) (K Bailey) K Bailey 6-11-7	A Thornton	80
6	/D-2P1	WILL I FLY 26 (F,S) (Mrs O Foster) J Long 10-11-7	B Fenton (5)	93
7	0-50230	COPPER COIL 38 (R Lloyd) W G M Turner 6-11-4	G Upton	—
8	P/F-	HYMER 262 (S) (Mrs M Llewellyn) B Llewellyn 7-11-4	D Matthews (5)	—
9	0	BUCKELLO 94 (Miss M Rowland) Miss M Rowland 5-11-2	Gary Lyons	—
10	000/P/	BENGAZEE 823 (D Hudd) J Smith 8-11-1	R Davis	—
11	112/PP	COOL CLOWN 8 (G,S) (Mrs P Browne) M Pipe 9-11-1	D Bridgwater	—
12	P-	FLOTATION 282 (P Tingey) John Berry 9-11-1	I Lawrence	—
13	66000-6	EASTERN PLEASURE 26 (G,S) (Mrs V Wood) K Burke 9-10-12	A Larnach (3)	69
14	R0/	THE ADJUTANT 784 (Mrs G Seymour) F Murphy 8-10-12	M Foster	—
15	0P54-25	VILLAINS BRIEF 49 (B) (J Mackrell) K Burke 7-10-12	M A Fitzgerald	77
16	0123-U8	RUA ROS 25 (S) (R Preston) Mrs S Smith 6-10-10	Mr P Murray (7)	65
17	321-015	WAKT 33 (BF,F,S) (B Whitburn) J White 5-10-10	D Bentley	78
18	P4/PP	COAL NOT DOLE 4 (Mrs D Upson) J Upson 8-10-9	J Supple (3)	—
19	08-3060	LUKS AKURA 4 (V,D,S) (Middleton Screen Investments) W Clay 8-10-9	Guy Lewis (3)	67
20	00/0-1P0	BORRISMORE FLASH 24 (D,F) (L Bowles) J Bradley 8-10-6	R Farrant	89

BETTING: 7-2 Will I Fly, 5-1 Persian View, 6-1 Cool Clown, 8-1 Grace Card, 10-1 Storm Drum, 12-1 others.

1995: CASTLE SECRET 9-11-8 D J Burchell (5-2 jt-fav) D Burchell 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

THREEOUTOFFOUR best effort last season 8¾l 3rd of 10 to Morgans Harbour in handicap hurdle at Newcastle (3m, good). PERSIAN VIEW best recent effort beat Abavard 20l in claiming novice hurdle at Newton Abbot (3m 3f, good to soft). WILL I FLY beat Viardot 6l in 15-runner claiming hurdle at Towcester (2m 5f, soft) with PERSIAN VIEW (3lb better off) brought down 3 out. COOL CLOWN best effort ¾l 2nd of 7 to Hurricane Blake in novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good to firm) March 1993.

Selection: THREEOUTOFFOUR

3.45 LEICESTER AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,679: 2m) (17 runners)

1	0-00P	PARTY BEDLAM 29 (Mrs S Walters) C James 7-12-2	M Walters (7)	—
2	0/	AIR COMMAND 22F (E Phillips) C Nash 6-12-2	P Phillips (7)	—
3	38242-4	GOLDINGO 202 (D,S) (G Price) G Price 9-11-10	J Jukes (7)	92
4	5225/41	CAWARRA BOY 41 (S) (Mrs M Holden) C James 8-11-9	E James (7)	92
5	66200-	AINSI SOIT IL 299 (A-Men Partnership) F Murphy 5-11-8	Miss L Doyle (7)	91
6	F0/1P2-5	CHIAPPUCCI 24 (G,S) (Mrs E Heath) Mrs E Heath 6-11-6	M Rimell (5)	95
7	/852-4P	CHILL WIND 20 (F,G) (E Daley) N Bycroft 7-11-5	S Swiers	98
8	P111-46	DAILY SPORT GIRL 54 (D,G,S) (B Llewellyn) B Llewellyn 7-11-0	J L Llewellyn (5)	93
9	100-0P	*SEVERN GALE 3 (D,S) (R Phillips) F Jordan 6-10-13*	*M Jackson (7)*	85
10	62400-0	CHOWPOR 43 (T Cullen) A Carroll 5-10-12	C Bonner (3)	90
11	356135-	RUPPLES 20 (F,G) (Exors of C Hague) M Chapman 9-10-6	M Mackley (7)	81
12	200/22-0	HEART OF SPAIN 25 (F Jackson) P Bevan 6-10-4	R Thornton (7)	89
13	36104/1	MISS SOUTER 29 (F,S) (The Secret Partnership) H Howe 7-10-3	J Culloty (7)	94
14	D05-054	PERSISTENT GUNNER 41 (D,G) (P Slade) R Hodges 6-10-1	G Baines (7)	96
15	PP0-00U	NO WORD 25 (F) (S Hudson) R Bastiman 9-10-0	I Baker (7)	—
16	00-P	BITE THE BULLET 22F (R Drinkwater) A Chamberlain 5-10-0	Y Mahmet (7)	—
17	0/00065	MADAM ROSE 41 (Mrs B Mills) J Mullins 6-10-0	DOUBTFUL	72

Long handicap: No Word 9-10, Bite The Bullet 9-2, Madam Rose 8-11

BETTING: 3-1 Ainsi Soit Il, 7-2 Cawarra Boy, 4-1 Goldingo, 6-1 Miss Souter, 12-1 Rupples, 14-1 others.

1995: RAIN-N-SUN 9-10-1 I McLelland (5-1) J Harris 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

GOLDINGO 4l 2nd of 6 to Reve En Rose in handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 3f 110yd, good) final start last season.

CAWARRA BOY beat Prairie Grove 1¼l in amateur riders' novices' handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, good to soft) with MADAM ROSE (5lb worse off) 10¾l 5th. AINSI SOIT IL best effort 7l 2nd of 10 to Clifton Beat in juvenile hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, heavy) last season. MISS SOUTER beat Mustahil 5l in handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, soft).

Selection: MISS SOUTER

RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright
suggests the best value in the ante-post market

VICTOR CHANDLER CHASE
Ascot, January 13

GUIDE TO THE LEADING PRICES

	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Tote
Martin's Lamp	3-1	10-3	11-4	7-2
Front Street	7-2	10-3	11-4	7-2
Gales Cavalier	11-2	7-1	8-1	6-1
Kibreet	6-1	11-2	7-1	5-1
Big Matt	8-1	9-1	8-1	8-1
Storm Alert	9-1	7-1	10-1	7-1
Egypt Mill Prince	10-1	9-1	7-1	8-1
High Baron	10-1	12-1	12-1	14-1
Dancing Paddy	12-1	14-1	16-1	14-1
Time Won't Wait	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1
Uncle Ernie	25-1	20-1	14-1	20-1
Nakir	33-1	33-1	20-1	25-1
Mr Felix	150-1	100-1	100-1	100-1

JUMP racing returned in style at Sandown last week, and high quality fare is again on offer this weekend at Ascot and Leopardstown. While Leopardstown's Ladbroke Hurdle has proved unsolvable to most British backers in recent years, the Victor Chandler Chase at Ascot is more appealing.

Front Street and Martin's Lamp dominated the Frogmore Chase over course and distance [illegible] and they head the market at Ascot on Saturday. [illegible] weighted to reverse the form of the four-length defeat [illegible] Front Street [illegible] confirm the form. He [illegible] off an 8lb higher [illegible] and is hard to recommend at 7-2.

Nicky Henderson's [illegible] but his stable was badly [illegible] deserves to win a major prize [illegible] narrowly beaten by Easthorpe [illegible] and is not yet a confirmed [illegible]

The handicapper has been [illegible] Prince this season. After winning over Saturday's course and distance in November, he was able to race off a 2lb lower mark when beaten half a length by Dublin Flyer in the Mackeson Gold Cup. He lost no caste in defeat when subsequently runner-up to [illegible] American chaser Lonesome Glory, and remains well weighted. As short as 7-1 with Ladbrokes, EGYPT MILL PRINCE rates the best bet of the season so far at 10-1 with Coral.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

1.30 Happy Partner. 2.00 Ultra Barley. 2.30 Fiaba. 3.00 Carrolls Marc. 3.30 Anzio. 4.00 China Castle.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.00 **CHINA CASTLE.**

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 1.30 Happy Partner. 2.30 **MEDIATE** (nap). 4.00 Four Weddings.

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 5F-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

1.30 VICTORY MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,673: 5f) (6 runners)

101	(6)	0-44	COPPER BRIGHT 5 (B) P Haslam 9-0	J Fortune	97
102	(2)	03-	DARBY FLYER 26 W Muir 9-0	J Weaver	88
103	(3)	32-	HAPPY PARTNER 139 C Murray 9-0	M Tebbutt	96
104	(1)	502-	BOUTON D'OR 21 P Howling 8-9	J Quinn	89
105	(5)	U50-	GOVERNORS DREAM 46 Mrs N Macauley 8-9	S Drowne (3)	87
106	(4)		KURY GIRL J A Harris 8-9	S D Williams	—

Evens Happy Partner, 2-1 Bouton D'Or, 7-1 Darby Flyer, 10-1 others.

2.00 RENOWN CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,103: 7f) (8)

201	(2)	011-	ULTRA BARLEY 26 (CD,F,G) P Haslam 9-5	M Baird (5)	92
202	(6)	02-5	PLEIN GAZ 7 (BF,S) A Harrison (Bell) 9-1	A Lakeman (7)	92
203	(5)	51-5	DOMETTES 5 (C,D,F) R Hannon 8-10	G Carter	89
204	(3)	300-	MUSIC MISTRESS 75 (C,F) J Moore 8-6	J F Egan	80
205	(1)	300-	BAKER 80 J Akehurst 8-1	T Williams	87
206	(7)	25-2	MARINO STREET 8 (BF) P Evans 8-0	J Quinn	89
207	(4)	23-1	ROWLANDSONS CHARM 5 (V,C,G) G L Moore 8-0	N Adams	86
208	(8)	04-0	*WINGNUT 7 (G) J Bridger 8-0*	G Bardwell	83

3-1 Ultra Barley, 4-1 Plein Gaz, Rowlandsons Charm, 9-2 Marino Street, 5-1 Domettes, 8-1 Baker, 10-1 others.

2.30 WARSPITE HANDICAP (£2,811: 1m) (12)

301	(8)	080-	MEDIATE 28 (C,F,G) A Hide 4-10-0	J Stack (3)	95
302	(9)	04-4	ROBELLION 7 (V,F) D Arbuthnot 5-9-8	R Cochrane	97
303	(11)	50-0	GENERAL SHIRLEY 7 P Hedger 5-9-2	A McGlone	90
304	(10)	003-	BAKERS DAUGHTER 22 (D,G) J Arnold 4-8-13	J Quinn	98
305	(3)	058-	SNAKE PLISSKEN 22 D Haydn Jones 5-8-10	A Mackay	92
306	(1)	60-0	SHAYNES DOMAIN 3 (B,G) R Flower 5-8-8	D Biggs	88
307	(5)	000-	ILLUSTRE 130 G Fierro 4-8-7	S D Williams	92
308	(4)	336-	BURNT SIENNA 21 (D,F) J Moore 4-8-6	J F Egan	89
309	(2)	024-	FIABA 38 (D,G) Mrs N Macauley 8-8-5	T Ashley (7)	98
310	(12)	606-	PACIFIC GIRL 41 B Palling 4-8-3	A Clark	97
311	(7)	008-	PARONOMASIA 136 M Bell 4-8-3	M Fenton	87
312	(6)	405-	*RACING TELEGRAPH 26 (G) J Payne 6-8-1*	*Iona Wands (7)*	98

3-1 Robellion, 5-1 Fiaba, 6-1 Bakers Daughter, 7-1 Snake Plissken, 8-1 Racing Telegraph, Illustre, 10-1 Burnt Sienna, 12-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Leicester: 1 45 Dozen Dirham. Lingfield Park: 1 30 Copper Bright. 4 00 Blue Flyer.

3.00 HOOD SELLING HANDICAP (£2,505: 1m 5f) (15)

401	(2)	653-	SHARP THRILL 43 B Smart 5-9-10	R Cochrane	97
402	(4)	450-	CARROLLS MARC 28 (F,G) C Murray 8-9-7	J Weaver	90
403	(1)	563-	KENYATTA 22 (CD,G) A Moore 7-9-4	Candy Morris	97
404	(10)	00-6	TELEPHUS 7 (B,C,F,G) B McMath 7-9-2	M Wigham	80
405	(13)	000/	INISHMANN 504 J Moore 5-9-2	J F Egan	—
406	(9)	06-5	SORISKY 7 B Gubby 4-9-0	J Quinn	86
407	(6)	445-	MILTAK 50 P Makin 4-8-13	S Sanders	88
408	(11)	00-0	SHEDANSAR 5 G L Moore 4-8-10	N Adams	—
409	(14)	00-0	MAFUTA 5 J Sheehan 4-8-10	M Fenton	89
410	(8)	300-	MARONETTA 21 M Ryan 4-8-6	M Baird (5)	97
411	(12)	800-	HUNZA STORY 21 (F) N Littmoden 4-8-6	T G McLaughlin	91
412	(5)	656-	*DUGGAN 28 (F,G) P Evans 9-8-4*	*D Sweeney (7)*	94
413	(7)	063-	ALPINE STORM 28 M Usher 4-8-3	C Adamson (5)	92
414	(15)	500-	STARLIGHT FLYER 6J (B,F,G,S) J Long 9-8-2	T Field (7)	91
415	(3)	000-	BALLAD RULER 82J P Pritchard 10-8-1	Jo Hunnam (7)	—

11-4 Sharp Thrill, 7-2 Kenyatta, 4-1 Alpine Storm, 5-1 Sorisky, 6-1 Miltak, 14-1 Carrolls Marc, 16-1 Telephus, Duggan, 20-1 others.

3.30 REPULSE HANDICAP (£3,849: 6f) (13)

501	(10)	305-	HANNAH'S USHER 28 (F,G) C Murray 4-10-0	M Tebbutt	87
502	(9)	034-	*CHEWIT 26 (CD,G) A Moore 4-10-0*	*Candy Morris*	91
503	(6)	600-	SPENDER 87 (CD,F,G) P Harris 7-9-13	J Stack (3)	90
504	(7)	440-	ROCKVILLE PIKE 22 (S) S Dow 4-9-11	W Woods	93
505	(2)	000-	ULTRA BEET 26 (V,C,D,F,G) P Haslam 4-9-9	J Weaver	90
506	(1)	410-	ANZIO 22 (B,C,D,F,G,S) B Pearce 5-9-8	T Ives	96
507	(11)	31-0	FOUR OF SPADES 8 (V,CD,F,G) P Evans 5-9-6	S Sanders	97
508	(12)	021-	ROBO MAGIC 22 (CD,F,G) L Montague Hall 4-9-5	J F Egan	89
509	(5)	000-	Q FACTOR 54 (D,S) D Haydn Jones 4-9-2	A Mackay	92
510	(13)	04-1	PAGEBOY 5 (B,CD,F,G) P Haslam 7-9-2 (7ex)	J Fortune	95
511	(4)	134-	SQUIRE CORRIE 68 (G) G Harwood 4-9-1	Gaye Harwood (7)	96
512	(3)	0/0	WILLRACK FARRIER 7 (G,S) B Meehan 4-8-11	A Clark	—
513	(8)	600-	PAB'S CHOICE 41 (V,CD,G) M McCormack 5-8-5	M Fenton	88

9-2 Robo Magic, 5-1 Pageboy, 6-1 Chewit, 13-2 Squire Corrie, Four Of Spades, 7-1 Spender, Hannah's Usher, 8-1 others.

4.00 NELSON HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,761: 1m 2f) (11)

601	(8)	001-	BELLE'S BOY 38 (G) B Palling 9-7	A Clark	80
602	(1)	303-	BLUE FLYER 25 (B) R Ingram 9-7	D Biggs	80
603	(2)	000-	MONTECRISTO 64 R Guest 9-3	G Bardwell	80
604	(5)	541-	KISSING GATE 31 (G) R Charlton 9-2	S Sanders	80
605	(10)	00-1	CHINA CASTLE 4 (G) P Haslam 8-13 (5ex)	J Fortune	89
606	(11)	431-	THORNTOUN ESTATE 45 (CD,G) M Johnston 8-11	D McKeown	81
607	(7)	052-	STERLING FELLOW 45 R Hannon 8-11	G Carter	80
608	(3)	050-	FOUR WEDDINGS 173 M Bell 8-9	M Fenton	80
609	(6)	121-	DOMOOR 43 (G) M Johnston 8-8	J Weaver	80
610	(9)	04-6	SUPAROY 7 T Mills 8-5	J Quinn	80
611	(4)	000-	*TARTAN EXPRESS 22 B Pearce 7-12*	*T Williams*	—

7-4 China Castle, 5-2 Kissing Gate, 4-1 Thorntoun Estate, Domoor, 6-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: P Harris, 9 winners from 30 runners, 30.0%; M Johnston, 32 from 187, 17.1%; M Bell, 4 from 24, 16.7%; R Hannon, 19 from 117, 16.2%; T Mills, 4 from 27, 14.8%; P Haslam, 10 from 68, 14.7%.

JOCKEYS: J Fortune, 3 winners from 9 rides, 33.3%; J Weaver, 49 from 211, 23.2%; T Ashley, 4 from 21, 19.0%; J F Egan, 3 from 17, 17.6%; R Cochrane, 40 from 231, 17.3%; T Ives, 18 from 105, 17.1%.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS FROM SOUTHWELL

12.20 (1m) 1, LADYBOWER (Aimee Cook, 12-1); 2, Carol Again (F Lynch, 33-1); 3, Anotherone To Note (J Dennis, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 4-6 fav Beaumen (4th), 6 East Barns, 10 Broughton's Port, Scent Of Power (5th), 14 Green Apache, 16 Great Bear (6th), 50 Woodlands Lad Too. 10 ran. 2½l, 1¼l, 2l, 3l, hd. Lord Huntingdon at West Ilsley. Tote: £11.60; £2.30, £4.70, £1.80. DF: £115.90. Trio: £190.70 (part won; pool of £166.58 carried forward to 2.30 at Lingfield today). CSF: £263.83. Tricast: £4,327.76

12.50 (7f) 1, SO AMAZING (J Weaver, 4-1); 2, Peggy Spencer (D McKeown, 5-4 fav); 3, Hi Rock (L Charnock, 13-2). ALSO RAN: 4 Legal Issue (4th), 9 Grey Again (5th), 14 Deawe (6th), 33 Macaroon Lady, 40 Crowning Tino, 66 Woodlands Electric. 9 ran. NR: Sea God. Hd, 6l, sh hd, 4l, 9l. *Miss S Hall at Middleham. Tote: £4.30; £1.60,* £1.10, £2.70. DF: £4.70. Trio: £13.30. CSF: £9.48. Tricast: £29.73

1.15 (1m) 1, WARHURST (Jo Hunnam, 5-4 fav); 2, Shotley Again (T Ashley, 16-1); 3, Lucky Tucky (Sally Wall, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 4 *Genesis Four (4th),* 6 Green's Bid, 7 Donia, 10 Young Benson (6th), 33 Royal Dancer, Selmeston (5th). 9 ran. 3l, 3½l, ¾l, ¾l, 1l. D *Nicholls at Thirsk. Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £4.20,* £2.40. DF: £17.30. Trio: £47.60. CSF: £21.92. Tricast: £91.30.

1.45 (1m) 1, PEOPLE DIRECT (J Fanning, 8-15 fav); 2, Arch Angel (N Adams, 5-1); 3, Dancing Cavalier (F Lynch, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Bumblefoot (4th), 14 Havana Heights (6th), 20 Haver Golf Diamond (5th), 100 Alpheton Prince, Mulhollande Lad. 8 ran. ¾l, 1½l, nk, 3l, 5l. K McAuliffe at Lambourn. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £1.70, £3.30. DF: £3.30. CSF: £3.33.

2.15 (1m 4f) 1, YOUGO (J Weaver, 8-11 fav); 2, Zesti (J Stack, 50-1); 3, Nick The Biscuit (A Clark, 9-1). ALSO RAN: 6-2 Tanlyer, 16 Never Time, Zalament, 33 Bescaby (4th), I'll Be Bound (5th), 50 Burnwood Melody (6th), 66 Burrough Hill Lass. 10 ran. 30l, ¾l, 1¾l, 3½l, hd. *M Johnston at Middleham. Tote: £1.70; £1.20,* £11.40, £1.50. DF: £44.50. Trio: £96.70. CSF: £32.38. Horse No 6, Tanlyer, was in fact Loch Style.

2.45 (1m 3f) 1, OUR TOM (N Carlisle, 14-1); 2, Rambo's Hall (S D Williams, 3-1 fav); 3, *Wildfire (J Quinn, 7-2).* ALSO RAN: 9-2 Magic Junction, 11-2 Sudden Spin (5th), 10 Far Ahead (4th), 12 Mamlul, Nashaat, Simaat, 25 Mr Towser (6th), 33 Elite Justice. 11 ran. 3l, 4l, 2½l, 11l, ¾l. J Wharton at Melton Mowbray. Tote: £24.60; £5.50, £1.50, £2.10. DF: £62.00. Trio: £292.40. CSF: £55.96. Tricast: £172.40.

3.15 (7f) 1, GUY'S GAMBLE (J Fanning, 33-1); 2, Welsh Melody (C Rutter, 13-2); 3, Dragonjoy (A McGlone, 100-30 fav). ALSO RAN: 6 Nitepwl Raider, Redmore Brandy, 7 Adler, 8 Still Here (6th), Silly Night (5th), 9 Trickledown, 10 Flome'm, 14 Napier Star, 16 Efipetite (4th). 12 ran. NR: Loch Style. 1¾l, 3½l, ¾l, 1½l, 6l. J Wharton at Melton Mowbray. Tote: £31.30; £9.00, £2.20, £1.80. DF: £91.80. Trio: £78.30. CSF: £235.53.

3.45 (7f) 1, WHITE SORREL (J Stack, 12-1); 2, Awesome Venture (C Munday, 12-1); 3, Moris (J Edmunds, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 2-1 fav Dr Caligari, 4 Aquado (5th), 13-2 Whackford Squeers, 10 Don't Get Caught (4th), Rainbows Rhapsody, 11 Geolly (6th). 9 ran. ½l, 1½l, 2½l, 1l, 6l. A Harrison at Middleham. Tote: £25.40; £6.90, £3.70, £4.00. DF: £158.40. Trio: £71.70. CSF: £129.84. Tricast: £869.12

Placepot: £344.50. Quadpot: £18.30.

☐ The meeting at Lingfield Park was abandoned because of waterlogging.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Endsleigh Insurance League
Third division
Gillingham v Chester (7.45)
Scarborough v Barnet

Auto Windscreens Shield
Quarter-finals
Northern section
Blackpool v Chesterfield
Rotherham v Lincoln
York v Notts County (7.45)

Southern section
Fulham v Bristol Rovers (7.45)
Hereford v Northampton (7.45)
Peterborough v Colchester (7.45)
Shrewsbury v Brighton

Vauxhall Conference
Kettering v Northwich (7.45)

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
Partick v Falkirk
Raith v Celtic

First division
Clydebank v Airdrie
Dumbarton v Dunfermline
Dundee v Dundee Utd
St Johnstone v Greenock Morton

Second division
Ayr v Clyde P
Forfar v East Fife

Third division
Albion v Caledonian Thistle P
Brechin v Alloa P
Cowdenbeath v East Stirling

Tennents Scottish Cup
Second round replays
Brechin v Clyde

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: British Students v FA XI (at Hednesford Town FC).

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Midland division: Bridgnorth v Evesham (7.45). Dr Martens Cup: Second round replay: *Trowbridge v Bashley. Third round:* Baldock v King's Lynn, Cheltenham v Gresley, Moor Green v Bilston.

ICIS LEAGUE: Carlton Cup: Second round: Walton and Hersham v Kingstonian. Third round: Aldershot Town v Bognor *Regis (7.45), Tooting and Mitcham v Sutton* United. Carlton Trophy: Third round: Ware v Hemel Hempstead; Wivenhoe v Chalfont St Peter (7.45).

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Colwyn Bay v Barrow; Emley v Chorley. President's Cup: First round: Leek v Hyde, Marine v Witton. Unifilla First division cup: Second round replay: Curzon Ashton v Ashton United.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Biggleswade v Hatfield. O'Brien/Mckenzie Butchers Cup: Third round, first leg: Toddington v Harpenden. O'Brien/Mckenzie Butchers Challenge Trophy: Third round: Royston v Stony Stratford.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bristol Manor Farm v Chippenham

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Tiptree v Felixstowe, Woodbridge v Watton

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Andover v Wimborne, Bournemouth v Eastleigh, Swanage and Herston v Christchurch

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Peacehaven and Telscombe v Horsham YMCA

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Thamesmead v Beckenham (7.45).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Portsmouth v Norwich (7.0); Watford v Ipswich (2.0).

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Bolton v Nottingham Forest (7.0), Everton v Manchester Utd (7.0). Second division: Barnsley v Coventry (7.0), Grimsby v Sunderland (7.0).

FA YOUTH CUP: Third round proper: Liverpool v Luton, Blackburn v Tranmere, Doncaster v Oldham, Plymouth v Tottenham.

SCHOOLS MATCH: Under-16: Premier League *Trophy:* Lancashire v Greater Manchester.

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 7.0

WRU Midweek Cup
Pool A
Abercynon v Blaina
Pontypool v Cross Keys

Pool B
Llandovery v Dunvant
Tenby Utd v Narberth

Pool C
Caerphilly v Llantwit
South Wales Police v Cardiff Inst

Pool D
Maesteg v Tondu
Ystradgynlais v Bonymaen

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Championship
Second division
Chorley v Highfield (7.30)

هكذا من الأصل

Super Bowl champions of yesteryear are hoping to turn back the clock

Resurgent Green Bay send 49ers packing

By Oliver Holt

THE historians are preparing themselves for an orgy of sentimentality and the propagation of endless re-runs of sepia-flavoured footage from the very birth of their game. As the American football juggernaut thunders towards the ultimate truck stop, the Super Bowl, comparative *arrivistes* like San Francisco 49ers are being left at the roadside by teams who dominated the early years of the sport.

The 49ers, the reigning champions, lost 27-17 to Green Bay Packers, the winners of the first two Super Bowls in 1967 and 1968, in San Francisco. Brett Favre, who has become the National Football League's most proficient quarterback, prompted comparisons with his great predecessor, Bart Starr, as he threw two touchdowns to take the Packers to the National Football Conference (NFC) championship game next week.

PLAY-OFFS

NFC Championship: Dallas Cowboys v Green Bay Packers
AFC Championship: Pittsburgh Steelers v Indianapolis Colts
Super Bowl: Tempe, Arizona (Sunday, Jan 28)

The 49ers never recovered from going 21-0 behind with only four minutes of the second quarter gone. Steve Young, the San Francisco quarterback, reduced the arrears with a short touchdown run in the third quarter but two field goals from the visitors put the game beyond them. "This is awful," Young said, "absolutely awful."

Not far behind them, the successors of the Terry Bradshaw-inspired Pittsburgh Steelers teams of the 1970s, progressed to their second successive American Football Conference championship game by trouncing Buffalo Bills 40-21. It was as if the Super Bowl had come early for the Bills' running back Thurman Thomas, who usually saves his worst for last and obliged with a fumble just when it seemed the Bills might be about to stage a stirring comeback.

Twirling yellow towels like dervishes, the Steelers supporters roared their team on even when it looked as though they might blow the 20-0 lead they had established midway through the second quarter. The Bills fought for all they were worth but were finally broken by two Steelers touchdowns in the last seven minutes, condemned to another year stuck with their label as the sport's most famous losers.

The Steelers will meet the real giantkillers of this stage of the play-offs, Indianapolis Colts, in the game which will decide who goes forward to the Super Bowl in Phoenix, Arizona, at the end of the month. The Colts, who only qualified for the play-offs as a wild-card entry and have not made it to the conference title game since they lost to Miami Dolphins in 1971, beat Kansas City Chiefs 10-7 with the help of three missed kicks and three second-half interceptions thrown by Steve Bono, the Chiefs quarterback.

"I don't think too many people outside of our locker room thought we could do it," the Colts' self-effacing quarterback, Jim Harbaugh, said. "It is a credit to our defense that we got those turnovers. We just keep grinding, keep coming back, keep believing in ourselves. Anything can happen now."

Only Dallas Cowboys of the dominant teams of recent years remain in contention for the Super Bowl. They cruised past Philadelphia Eagles 30-11 to make it to the NFC championship game for the fourth straight year. They will meet the Packers at the Texas Stadium on Sunday.

The Cowboys were inspired by "Neon" Deion Sanders, who is fast becoming the sport's equivalent of Eric Cantona. He has not made any unscheduled forays into the crowd yet but he did leave the 49ers after winning a Super Bowl ring with them last year and is on course for another with the Cowboys this year.

Sanders, who was lured away from San Francisco by a $35 million contract (around £23.5 million), lined up as an attacking wide receiver although he is nominally a defensive back, and scored a second-quarter touchdown to put the Cowboys 10-3 up. Emmitt Smith, the Dallas running back, added another touchdown to increase their lead and the game was effectively over.

The old footage is already being played, of course. The favourite so far is the "Ice Bowl" meeting between the Cowboys and the Packers for the conference title at Green Bay's frozen Lambeau Field in 1967. The Packers won that one 21-17 but the Cowboys have won their last six meetings, including two play-off games.

Marcus Allen, of Kansas City Chiefs, fails to breach the Indianapolis Colts defense. Photograph: Jeff Taylor

Cup success may spell trouble

A conflict of interests threatens the stability of club rugby in Europe. **David Hands** reports

The formation of a European association of professional rugby union clubs hangs like a cloud over a successful first year of European competition. Though neither the individual clubs nor the organisers of the Heineken Cup seek confrontation, that possibility remains a threat to the fledgeling tournament.

The problem is as much one of administration as anything else: 11 clubs (Leicester, Harlequins, Sale, Cardiff, Swansea, Pontypridd, Toulouse, Toulon, Castres, Treviso and Milan) were represented in Cardiff over the weekend, when the European Professional Rugby Clubs Association was formed. As smaller units, they can move fast: European Rugby Cup Ltd (ERC), whose directors are drawn from the five nations and are honorary appointments, cannot.

All the directors are heavily involved in International Rugby Football Board business and are unlikely to meet until next month to discuss a tournament which reached its climax when Toulouse beat Cardiff on Sunday. Meanwhile, the clubs plan to meet on January 26, many of them seeking to put the tournament on a home-and-away basis as soon as possible.

Their imperatives differ, naturally enough, from those of the national unions represented on ERC. The clubs seek money and the control of commercial and television deals; the unions wish to filter the profits of the new competition rather more broadly, while recognising the needs of the leading clubs in Europe.

For the present, they are delighted with their new creation, which will almost certainly grow from 12 teams to 20 next season. Assuming English and Scottish participation — though Scottish clubs have forced their union to call a special general meeting to resolve whether they will be represented by district teams (like Ireland) or the clubs themselves — then England, Wales and France will each contribute four teams, Scotland and Ireland three each and Italy two.

There is every possibility that the second Italian club will have to qualify in a play-off with the Romanian champions. ERC is keen to recognise Romania's historical contribution to European competition, while mindful that Farul Constanta lost both their Heineken Cup games heavily this season.

Most of the games next season will be played at weekends during October and November and this time a decent gap will be preserved between the semi-finals and the final, scheduled for January 4, 1997, probably in Paris. This season, the semi-finals and final were separated by only a week, leaving little opportunity to promote the final.

Vernon Pugh, chairman of the Welsh Rugby Union, believes the birth of a European club competition was the hardest thing he has had to drive through in rugby which, considering his part in the creation of an open game last summer, is saying something. "There is a three-year commitment to the tournament organisers," he said, "of which the leading clubs are aware.

"One understands why the clubs might wish to generate a premier-league style situation and no one can be forced to stay within the national unions and their rules. But neither should they necessarily expect radical adjustments to suit their agenda.

"If you reach a position where the power and authority fall into the hands of the clubs, to the detriment of the international game, then it's total anarchy."

The profits from the competition will be divided between the participating unions and Pugh estimates that there will be a minimum of £500,000 to be distributed among the Welsh first division clubs: 60 per cent will go to the three participants — Cardiff, Swansea and Pontypridd — who also benefit from gate receipts and commercial deals attached to their home games.

Next season, assuming the Rugby Football Union's plans bear fruit, an Anglo-Welsh league will be staged concurrently with the Heineken Cup and a hastily-made fixture this Saturday presages that: Wasps will play Llanelli, since nearly all of the first division programme in the Heineken League is postponed four days before Wales play Italy.

Hull moves to wing to take on France A

By David Hands

ENGLAND, having declared that their A team must be regarded as a vehicle for development, stick with their principles in selection for the meeting with France at the Jean Bouin Stadium on January 19.

The bulk of the young side which imposed a heavy defeat on Western Samoa last month is retained for what is traditionally the hardest fixture in the A-team calendar.

The only capped player is Paul Hull, who is fielded on the wing now that Jon Sleightholme has been elevated to the senior side. The irony will not be lost on Hull: his own international career has suffered from his ability to cover various positions behind the scrum and now he is required to move from full back once more.

Players such as Nick Greenstock and James Naylor are recovering from injury so Adedayo Adebayo — whose form this season must have merited serious discussion for the senior XV — will play on the left wing.

Rory Jenkins, the Harlequins open-side flanker, displaces Richard Hill, which is hard on the talented Saracens player.

The significant aspect of this game will be the form of the young half backs, Alex King and Andy Gomarsall, who twisted his ankle playing for Wasps last Saturday. Success against the French, at any level, is a good indication of a talented player and if King, in particular, can impose himself on the game, his value to a clutch of admiring first division clubs may rise.

ENGLAND A: T Stimpson (West Hartlepool), P Hull (Bristol), W Greenwood (Harlequins), P Mensah (Harlequins), A Adebayo (Bath), A King (Bristol University), A Gomarsall (Wasps), R Hardwick (Coventry), P Greening (Gloucester), D Garforth (Leicester), M Corry (Bristol), G Archer (Bristol), D Sims (Gloucester), R Jenkins (Harlequins), A Diprose (Saracens, captain). Replacements: A Blyth (West Hartlepool), R Liley (Sale), A Healey (Orrell), K Yates (Bath), R Cockerill (Leicester), R Hill (Saracens).

ENGLAND STUDENTS (*v French Students, Jean Bouin Stadium, January 19*): J Ufton (Reading), S Roiser (Guy's Hospital), M Allen (Loughborough), M Denney (Bristol), D Luger (Manchester); N Ryan (Sheffield Hallam), S Cook (Newcastle), D Molloy (Thames Valley), C Johnson (Loughborough), W Green (Oxford Brookes), B Kay (Loughborough), R Bramley (Cambridge, captain), C Yandell (Swansea), J Irons (Durham), P Scrivener (Brunel). Replacements: M Shelley (Newcastle), A Bennett (Leeds Metropolitan), D Mazer (Oxford Brookes), C Colling (Exeter), F Waters (Bristol), N Walsh (Kingston).

DISCOVERY DATA: FASTEST MOTORBIKE: HARLEY DAVIDSON: 322MPH

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POOLS FORECAST

Saturday January 13 unless stated
Coupon No, fixture, forecast

FA PREMIERSHIP
1 Bolton v Wimbledon 1
2 Everton v Chelsea X
3 Man Utd v Aston Villa X
4 Middlesbro v Arsenal 1
5 Nottm F v Soton 1
6 QPR v Blackburn 2
7 Tottenham v Man City 1
Not on coupons. Coventry v Newcastle (Sunday); Leeds v West Ham, Sheffield Wednesday v Liverpool

FIRST DIVISION
8 Derby v Reading 1
9 Luton v Southend 2
10 Millwall v Port Vale 1
11 Oldham v Barnsley 2
12 Portsm'th v Grimsby 2
13 Stoke v Leicester 1
14 Tranmere v Sheff Utd 1
15 Watford v Hudd'field 2
Not on coupons: Birmingham v Charlton (Sunday); Crystal Palace v Ipswich; Sunderland v Norwich (Sunday); West Brom v Wolves

SECOND DIVISION
16 Bradford v Brighton 1
17 Bristol C v Crewe X
18 Burnley v Stockport 2
19 Carlisle v Chesterfield X
20 Hull v Rotherham 2
21 Oxford v Brentford X
22 Peterboro v Bourn'mth 1
23 Swansea v Bristol R 2
24 Walsall v Shrewsbury 1
25 Wrexham v Blackpool 2
26 Wycombe v Notts Co 1
27 York v Swindon X

THIRD DIVISION
28 Chester v Bury 1
29 Colchester v Barnet X
30 Doncaster v Torquay 1
31 Exeter v Hartlepool 1
32 Fulham v Scarboro 2
33 Gillingham v Lincoln 1
34 Hereford v Cambridge 1
35 Leyton O v Mansfield 1
36 North'pton v Cardiff 1
37 Preston v Plymouth 1
38 Rochdale v Darlington X
39 Scunthorpe v Wigan 2

SCOTTISH PREMIER
40 Hearts v Falkirk 1
41 Kilmarn'k v Hibernian X
42 Motherwell v Partick 1
43 Rangers v Raith 1
Not on coupons: Aberdeen v Celtic (Sunday)

SCOTTISH FIRST
44 Dumbarton v Airdrie 2
45 Dundee Utd v St Mirren 1
46 Dunfermline v Clydebank 1
47 G Morton v Dundee X
48 Hamilton v St Johnstone 2

SCOTTISH SECOND
49 Berwick v Forfar 1
50 Clyde v Stenhousemuir X
51 East Fife v Q of South 1
52 Montrose v Ayr X
53 Stranraer v Stirling 2

SCOTTISH THIRD
54 Albion v Caledonian 2
55 Arbroath v E Stirling 1
56 Livingston v Alloa 1
57 Queen's Park v Brechin X
58 Ross County v Cowdenbeath 1

SCOTTISH CUP SECOND ROUND REPLAYS
Not on coupons: Annan v Berwick, East Fife v Spartans, Fraserburgh v Whitehill, Keith v [illegible]
*Pools panel to adjudicate

DRAWS (home teams): Everton, Manchester United, Bristol City, Carlisle, Oxford, York, Colchester, Rochdale, Kilmarnock, Greenock Morton, Clyde, *Queen's Park*.
BEST DRAWS: Everton, Carlisle, Colchester, Rochdale, Kilmarnock.
AWAYS: Southend, Huddersfield, Rotherham, Bristol Rovers, Scarborough.
HOMES: *Nottingham Forest, Tottenham,* Derby, Stoke, Peterborough, Doncaster, Exeter, Leyton Orient, Northampton, Preston, Hearts, Dunfermline.

FIXED ODDS Homes: Tottenham, Derby, Stoke, Doncaster, Leyton Orient. Aways: Southend, Huddersfield, Scarborough.
Draws: Everton, Carlisle, Colchester.

☐ Vince Wright

Vince Wright gave ten out of 12 homes last Saturday

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page *40*

HODEGETRIA

(c) *An iconographical variant of the Virgin and Child in which the Child is* depicted on the Virgin's left arm while she indicates him with her right hand as *"the indicator of the way" (the meaning of the Greek words).* According to tradition the arrangement follows that of a painting originally attributed to St Luke, but the earliest surviving example is probably to be assigned to the 7th century. The composition was frequently copied in Italy, the Byzantine world and Russia. Sometimes, in the process of copying, the Child was transferred from the Virgin's left arm to the right and she indicates him with her left hand, but there is no particular significance in this variant.

MULLOCK

(a) Worthless information or nonsense. Australian and New Zealand slang. " 'Cooney,' I said, 'it is madness to present such mullock to an intellectual audience.' "

HANGUL

(c) The Korean national phonetic alphabet, from the Korean *Han* Korea + *kul* script or alphabet. "In its modern form, Hangul consists of 24 phonetic symbols and is considered one of the most ingenious writing systems ever devised."

MOFFIE

(c) *South African slang for an effeminate man, a shortening and* mispronunciation of *hermaphrodite*. "Moffies. They don't like women but they like women's clothes. But Achmed was not a proper Moffie; he just liked fooling with boys. He didn't have the moffie voice."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 dxQ! Qxd8 2 Qf7+ and White wins.

RADIO CHOICE

The sinking of a tax ship

Consequences: The Poll Tax. *Radio 4, 7.20pm.*

Had he been so inclined, former Tory Chancellor Nigel Lawson would have had every reason to purr "I told you so!" He had attacked the proposed poll tax as "politically catastrophic" and "deeply regressive, hitting the poor". Two years after it was introduced, initially in Scotland, it was dropped. It was Margaret Thatcher's flagship. When it sank, it took her down with it. In *Consequences,* Tony Travers confidently picks his way through the political minefield the poll tax created. One of the worst consequences, according to Travers, was its contribution to the destruction of Britain's once-strong system of local government

The BBC Orchestras: BBC National Orchestra of Wales. *Radio 3, 1.00pm.*

If I were asked to nominate the regional orchestra that has improved out of all recognition in recent years, it would have to be the instrumentalists who shelter under the flag showing the Welsh Dragon. Their main work in today's concert is a rarity. It is the original 1911 version of Stravinsky's ballet score or *Petrushka.* We have become used to the amended version, written in 1947, and altogether more modest than the original orchestration. This is perfect ballet music. Yet, amazingly, Stravinsky conceived it as a concert piece for piano and orchestra. He was talked out of that by Diaghilev, the formidable impresario.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo **4.00am** Clive Warren **6.30** Chris Evans **9.00** Kevin Greening **12.00** *Lisa I'Anson,* incl at **12.30-12.45pm** Newsbeat and **1.15** The Net **2.00** Nicky Campbell in the Afternoon **4.00** Mark Goodier, incl at **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat **7.00** Evening Session **9.00** Cling Film **10.00** Mark Radcliffe **Midnight** Wendy Lloyd

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **6.00am** Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce, incl at **10.00** Pick of the Hits **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Debbie Thrower **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Hayes over Britain **8.30** Sinatra: The Other Side (6/6) **9.00** Put Your Sweet Lips a Little Closer to the Phone **10.00** Alter Egos. In the first of six programmes, Valerie Solti talks to Dame Kiri Te Kanawa **10.30** The *Jamesons* **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00-6.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme, incl **6.55, 7.55** racing preview **8.35** The Magazine, incl **10.35** Euronews, **11.30** Dirty News **12.00** Midday with Mair, incl **12.34** Moneycheck **1.15** Entertainment News **2.05pm** Ruscoe on Five, incl **3.15** Prime Minister's Question Time **3.45** Entertainment News **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra, with Valerie Sanderson **7.35** The Tuesday Match **10.05** News Talk **11.00** Night Extra **12.05am** After Hours **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr **7.00** Simon Bates **10.00** Jonathan King **12.00** Tommy Boyd **2.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** Scott *Chisholm and Lowri Turner* **7.00** Sean Bolger **9.00** Moz Dee **10.00** James Whale **1.00-6.00am** Ian Collins

WORLDSERVICE

All times in GMT. **5.00am** *Newsday* **5.30** Europe Today **6.00** Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** Off the Shelf **7.30** New Ideas **7.50** The Planets **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** *Concert Hall* **9.00** News in German **9.15** Just a Minute **9.45** Sport **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Thirty-Minute Drama **12.30** News **12.05pm** Business **12.15** *Britain Today* **12.30** Pick of the World **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack: Hit List **3.00** News in German **3.15** On Screen **3.30** Omnibus **4.00** News **4.15** The World Today **4.30** *News in German* **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** Business **5.45** Sport **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** News in German **7.00** News Summary **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** Megamix **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** Business **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** World Today **10.45** Sport **11.00** News **11.10** Invitation to the Dance **11.15** Anything Goes **11.45** Country Style **Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30am** What's News? **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** News **1.10** Press **1.15** On Screen **1.30** Ports of Call **2.00** Newsday **2.30** Andy Kershaw **3.00** News **3.15** Sport **3.30** Discovery **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am *Early Breakfast* **6.00** Nick Bailey **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah *Simons* **2.00pm** *Lunchtime Concerto* **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Classic Newsnight **6.30** Sonata **7.00** The Classic Opera Guide **8.00** Evening Concert **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Hits *Through the Night*

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **9.00** Richard *Skinner* **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.30** Paul Coyte **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00-6.00am** Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Rachmaninov (We have seen the resurrection, Vespers); Haydn (Sinfonia Concertante in B flat); Arnold (Three Sea Shanties); Bruch (Violin Concerto No 1 in G minor); **8.05** Handel (Recorder Sonata in B flat, Fitzwilliam); Walton (String Quartet in A minor)
9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Bartók (*Rumanian Folk Dances*); Scarlatti (Sonatas: in G; in G minor); Fasch (Concerto in D minor); Mozart (Clarinet Concerto in A)
10.00 **Musical Encounters,** with Edward Blakeman. Marenzio (Kyrie and Gloria; Exsurgat Deus; Buonamente, Sonata); Boieldieu (Harp Concerto in C); *Debussy (Fêtes galantes)*; **11.00** Schubert (Piano Quintet in A, Trout); Vaughan Williams (Pretty Bess; Epitaph on John Jayberd of Diss, Five *Tudor Portraits*)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Mozart. Works associated with the composer's visit to Mannheim in 1777-78, *introduced* by Nicholas Till. Sonata in C: Basta, vincesti; Symphony No 31 in D, Paris
1.00pm News; The BBC Orchestras. BBC National *Orchestra of Wales.* See Choice
2.25 Carmina Quartet. Mozart (String Quartet in G); Debussy (String Quartet in G minor) (*r*)
3.20 ***A Series of Intervals.*** The major third (r)
3.30 The BBC Orchestras. BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Ari Rasilainen, with Paul *Boyes, bassoon. Sibelius* (Finlandia); Weber (Bassoon Concerto in F); Prokofiev (Symphony No 1 in D, Classical); Sibelius (Symphony No 2 in D)
5.00 The Music Machine. Tommy Pearson explores the years 1600 to 1750
6.15 ***In Tune,*** *with Main Nicolson.* Mozart (Trumpet Concerto in D); Beethoven (Violin Sonata in A)
7.30 Pebble Mill, live from Studio *One. Peter Donohoe, piano.* Debussy (Preludes, Book 1); **8.10** Debussy and the Piano. Recollections from Debussy's friends and contemporaries; *8.30 Peter Donohoe plays* Ravel (Sonatine); Messiaen (La Fauvette des jardins)
9.35 Celtic Soul. Sean Street travels to Lindisfarne
9.55 RNCM Broadwood International Festival. BBC Philharmonic under Barry Wordsworth performs Mozart (Concerto for two pianos: *Steven Osborne and Paul Janes*); Ravel (Piano Concerto in G: Anne Queffelec)
11.45 Night Waves. Includes *reviews of Peter York's Eighties* on BBC2, and *Faces of the Eighties* at the National Portrait Gallery
11.30 Music Restored. The second of two concerts *recorded* at the Holywell Music Room in Oxford, during last September's festival to mark the 450th anniversary of the death of William *Lawes. An* augmented Purcell Quartet plays some of his *music* for mixed consort and Red Byrd perform some laments written by contemporaries

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW only) **6.00** News **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** *Today, incl* **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **6.55, 7.55** Weather **7.25, 8.25** Sport **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Letters from Kensington, *by Raymond Seitz* (1/5) **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Call Nick Ross: 0171-580 4444
10.00-10.30 News; Crimescapes (FM only). Leslie Forbes with crime writer Liza Cody (2/6)
10.00 Daily Service (LW only)
10.15 ***This Scept'r'd Isle*** (LW only)
10.30 Woman's Hour Serial: *Lions and Liquorice,* by Kate Fenton. Read by Michael Maloney (6/12)
11.30 Medicine Now
12.00 News; You and Yours
12.25pm ***The Heritage Quiz.*** Sue MacGregor questions Christopher Cook, Graham Fawcett, Philippa Gregory and Michael Schmidt
1.00 The World at One, with Sheena MacDonald
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Thirty Minute Theatre: Funny Valentine, by John Bond. Teenagers *Ellie and Alyson prepare* a Valentine's Day meal for their parents. But will it heal the rift between their mother and father? With Becky Hindley, John Hartley, Jessica Dawes and Lucy Kent
2.30 Some Enchanted Evening with Bryn Terfel. The opera singer talks to the pianist Iain Burnside, and they perform a selection of songs from Welsh *folk to Rodgers and* Hammerstein (r)
3.00 ***The Afternoon Shift,*** with Daire Brehan. Ian Macmillan tracks the Yorkshire songsmith Bert Lee, who wrote *Knees Up Mother Brown*
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Vaughan reviews a biography of the soprano Elisabeth Schwarzkopf and talks to the author J.G. Ballard
4.45 Short Story: Happy as Saturday Night, by Siân *James. Read by Erica Eirian*
5.00 PM, with Chris Lowe and Jackie Hardgrave **5.50** Shipping **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Cook's Tour. *Eleanor Bron* presents the last of three programmes on the comedian Peter Cook
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Consequences. See Choice
8.00 Science Now (r)
8.30 Reading Aloud. *Travel,* letters and autobiography. *Letters Home,* by Sylvia Plath (1/4) (r)
9.00 In Touch with Peter White
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Harpole Report, by J.L. Carr. Read by Alistair McGowan (7/10)
11.00 Mediumwave (r)
11.30 Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures (FM only). Derek Cooper finds out why oats fuelled the social and literary life of Scotland and discovers 101 *uses of oatmeal* (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament (LW)
12.00 News, incl **12.27am** Weather
12.43 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

For excitement, the brains beat the brawn

Will computers stop us thinking for ourselves, was one of the questions that kicked off a new season of *The Brains Trust*. Nothing too difficult there for Jonathan Miller and the brainy bunch — a quick rail against the early use of calculators, a plea for poetry once again to be learnt by heart and we were on to the next. Do we know *what love is*? No, but they knew a Wittgenstein who did.

And so it was that some of the mightiest intellects in the land neatly avoided the burning question of the evening — will popular drama stop us thinking for ourselves? The answer, at least for those of us who caught the first episode of **Call Red** (ITV) is — very possibly.

Having exhausted the Armed Forces and the emergency services as subject matter, producers of popular drama are now left with filling the gaps — hence a series about an air ambulance, where half the characters do the flying while the other half do the doctoring.

That, at least is the theory. In practice the members of this particular Air Medical Service team, based somewhere around the Solent, are all far too busy flirting with each other to get any *real work done. The mortuary at* King Alfred's hospital must echo to the sound of patients unzipping their body bags and walking out to look for *some proper medical* attention. "Damn it Sean, why didn't you spot the pulse?" Philip will bellow soon at the weekly "death and doughnuts" review meeting. "Sorry boss, I was too busy giving Allie the glad-eye."

With sexual chemistry the top priority, casting has been done on the Robson Green principle — giving the best parts to the actors with the nicest eyes. "Right darlings, we'll have piercing blues, soft greys and extra long lashes over here please, the rest of you . . . we'll let you know. You with the sty — stay behind for a second, I might have something for you in *Bramwell*."

All this meaningful eye contact, however, does have its dangers. Amid all the air traffic control jargon that fills the gaps between the *medical jargon*, there was much alarming talk of "sequentially blown pupils", presumably an occupational hazard for those fond *of dilating in front of the opposite* sex — along with cramp of the artfully arched eyebrow.

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

But for all its predictability — the urgent music, the urgent storylines and the frantic flirting — *Call Red* made an encouraging start, despite an occasional tendency to look like an airborne version of *Howard's Way*. The basic premise was neatly established, as was the improbably good-looking cast of medics and flyers. The next few weeks will see if they can manage anything a little more demanding. To borrow from its own software jargon — Chances of Survivability? Over 50 per cent.

By contrast the chances of survivability for Paul Verhoeven's career are said to be slim — and falling. After enjoying huge popular success with *Robocop*, *Total Recall* and *Basic Instinct*, the Dutch film director has run into a spot of bother with *Showgirls*, a film dubbed by his detractors as a go-go girl too far.

In recent months **Omnibus** (BBC1) has won a deserved reputation for outrageous pluggery, so a spot of career rehabilitation made a nice change — even if it was *timed to coincide with the British* release of *Showgirls*. Did it succeed? Well, up to a point.

Certainly, David Thompson's *film, subtitled From Holland to Hollywood*, established that Verhoeven has a track record as a film-maker for showing things as they are. In Verhoeven's world, if a woman crosses her legs while not wearing underwear, then a camera should be looking up her skirt. "I thought when we were shooting the scene that it might be fun."

A distinguished cast of actors and writers, including the Guinness-drinking Rutger Hauer and Joe Eszterhas, who wrote the screenplay for *Basic Instinct*, were assembled to convince us that Verhoeven's approach was a legitimate one. Sadly, Sharon Stone, the world's best-known natural blonde, was not available for comment.

Thompson, however, also provided ammunition for those who believe that the mathematics graduate from Leiden has become a dirty old man, with *some toe-curling footage of* the director at work on the set of *Showgirls*. Surrounded by beautiful young women rehearsing their writhings and wrigglings, our greying, denim-shirted Lothario looked as though he had died and gone to heaven. As the song says: vice work if you can get it . . .

But for the cutting edge of voyeurism, you had to watch **The Brains Trust** (BBC2) with its live acts of unsimulated, penetrative . . . thinking. With Nietzsche and Goethe whizzing past at head height it is tempting to mock this late-night revival of a show last seen in the early 1960s. Indeed with A.S. Byatt holding forth about the glee she experiences "every time" she reads *King Lear*, the temptation is almost irresistible.

In its new format the programme appears to have shifted the emphasis somewhat. No longer is it a case of humbly asking *better minds than ours to do our* thinking for us; instead this is thinking as a spectator sport. And with Jonathan Miller on his best behaviour and Edward de Bono performing his lateral party tricks ("if we bred humans to be half the current size, we'd have twice as much space each and eight times as much food to eat") quite good spectator sport it proved too. Mind you, I could have done with action replays of some of the finer points.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (27151)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (29199880)

9.10 Kilroy (s) (223441) **10.00 News** (Ceefax) and weather (904796)

10.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (6489828)

10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (15248)

12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (6525809) **12.05pm Pebble Mill** (s) (9756915) **12.50 Regional News** and weather (13451170)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) (68809)

1.30 Neighbours: Helen's wedding day turns into a day of revelations. Meanwhile a confrontation with Rhonda is long overdue (Ceefax) (s) (64520996) **1.50 Banacek** (2805441)

3.05 Timekeepers with Bill Dod (s) (5980625)

3.30 Ants in Your Pants (s) (1284996) **3.50 ChuckleVision** (s) (1297460) **4.10 Free Willy** (Ceefax) (s) (2366183)

4.35 NEW **Run The Risk**. Bobby Davro presents the manic children's game show (Ceefax) (s) (9244625)

5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (461984) **5.10 The Demon Headmaster** (3/6) (Ceefax) (s) (7860538)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (48977) **NORTHERN IRELAND: 5.35** Inside Ulster

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (489)

6.30 Regional News Magazines (441) **NORTHERN IRELAND: 6.30** Neighbours

7.00 Holiday. Jill Dando visits Brazil; Sankha Guha visits the Italian resort of Positano; Paul Gogarty takes a skiing trip to Canada; and John Pitman spends a weekend at the Burghley Horse Trials (Ceefax) (s) (6828)

7.30 EastEnders (Ceefax) (s) (625)

8.00 Great Ormond Street. A team from Intensive Care race to Hemel Hempstead where five-week-old Michael is having difficulty breathing (Ceefax) (s) (2248)

Keith and Gaunt as surrogate parents (8.30pm)

8.30 Next of Kin. Sit-com with Penelope Keith and William Gaunt (Ceefax) (s) (4083)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7422)

9.30 Men Behaving Badly. The first series of the laddish sit-com starring Martin Clunes and Neil Morrissey (r) *(Ceefax) (66354)* **WALES: 9.30** Welsh Sports Personality of the Year **10.45** The X Files **11.30** The Gulf War **12.30-2.00am** FILM: The Long Journey Home (1987)

10.00 *The X Files: Humbug* (883828)

10.45 The Gulf War: Thunder and Lightning (2/4) (Ceefax) (69683) **NORTHERN IRELAND: 10.45** On Air **11.15** The Gulf War: Thunder and Lightning **12.35-1.35am** FILM: The Night They Raided Minskys (198)

11.45 FILM: The Long Journey Home (1987) starring Meredith Baxter Birney, David Birney, Ray Baker and Mike Preston. A husband missing in action in Vietnam for ten years suddenly reappears. Directed by Rod Holcomb (Ceefax) (80539)

1.15 Weather (4335890)

BBC2

6.00am Business and Work: Working All Hours (25793)

7.00 Breakfast News (Ceefax and signing) (6579915)

7.15 Lassie (3693793) **7.40 Stone Protectors** (r) (7757248) **8.05 Blue Peter** (r) (5700064) **8.35 The Mud-Loving Muskrat** (s) (9991199) **9.00 Blitz on Cartooning** (r) (36625) **9.30 Seabrook's Year** (r) (73644) **10.00 Playdays** (s) (6488199)

10.25 The People of the Forest (s) (37857248)

12.00 See Hear! (r) (Ceefax and signing) (56489)

12.30pm Working Lunch (s) (77460)

1.00 Spot (r) (73534793) **1.05 Juniper Jungle** (r) (s) (28375441)

1.15 Willie Nelson: My Life (r) (1952151)

2.10 NEW **The Andrew Neil Show** (s) (5924248)

3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather. Followed by **Westminster with Nick Ross** (Ceefax) (s) (7647712) **3.55 News** (Ceefax) (5603335)

4.00 Today's the Day (s) (354) **4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook** (s) (538) **5.00 Esther** (s) (4606)

5.30 The Village (487248) **5.55 Turning Points** (105793)

6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (s) (480996)

6.25 Heartbreak High (Ceefax) (s) (388915)

7.10 The Ren and Stimpy Show (Ceefax) (s) (645462)

7.30 Local Heroes. Adam Hart-Davis recreates the world's first powered flight (Ceefax) (s) (267)

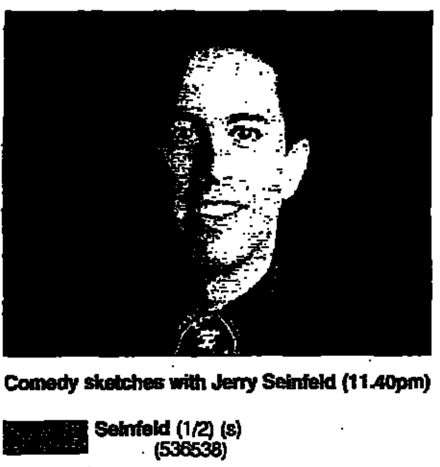
8.00 Pound for Pound. Making money work for you (3118)

8.30 Food and Drink. (Ceefax) (s) (2625)

9.00 Million Dollar Babies. The concluding part of the amazing but tragic story of the Dionne quintuplets. (r) (Ceefax) (6793)

***10.30 Newsnight** (Ceefax) (552606)*

11.15 The Larry Sanders Show (Ceefax) (s) (407267)



Comedy sketches with Jerry Seinfeld (11.40pm)

11.40 Seinfeld (1/2) (s) (536538)

11.55 Weather (891977)

12.05am Midnight Hour (s) (5348565)

12.30 The Learning Zone: Open University — The Traditions and the Environment (63590) **1.30** The Dynamics of Teams (93132) **2.00** Languages: French Experience. Beginners' French (89768) **3.00** Japanese Language and People (86768) **4.00 BBC Focus**: Teaching and Learning with IT, the Internet and primary ideas (15497) **4.30** Inside Europe (74519) **5.00** English Heritage — Conservation at Work (46294) **5.30** Film Education (37403)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

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CHOICE

A Chinese toddler is left to die (C4, 9.00pm)

Return to the Dying Rooms
Channel 4, 9.00pm

One of the least forgettable documentaries of 1995 was an exposé of how China treats its abandoned children. Armed with hidden cameras, a television crew entered the country's state orphanages and brought back terrible footage of abused and neglected babies. Much of the material is repeated here, along with the findings of a parallel report by Human Rights Watch, an international body, into an orphanage in Shanghai. Its findings echo all too closely the evidence of the original film. The children are the unwanted products of China's attempt to slow the rise in its population. Too many people chasing too few resources is a genuine problem. A policy little short of murder is not a humane answer. A debate follows at 11pm.

Ride On
Channel 4, 8.00pm

The chirpy Muriel Gray is back with the transport magazine that seems determined to set new standards in the esoteric. There may be motoring buffs who bother about how much of the classic car is made up of strictly original parts, or wonder how journalists arrive at those unbelievable performance figures. *There may be hang-gliding enthusiasts who would* like to cheat nature by strapping a lawnmower engine to their backs. For both groups the show will be meat and drink. The rest of us will be more interested in Gray's half-in-jest bid for one of the new rail franchises, in which she demonstrates a few novel cost-cutting measures such as dispensing with station staff and running coaches instead of trains.

The Gulf War: Thunder and Lightning
BBC1, 10.45pm

Part two of an enthralling series opens with the Allied bombing of Iraq and the fear in the United States that the country might be enmeshed in another Vietnam. It relates the successes of precision bombing but also the failure, hidden at the time for political reasons, to deal with Saddam Hussein's scud missiles. It reveals how *Saddam moved around Baghdad in old taxis* to avoid being spotted. We get Andy McNab's story of the SAS patrol, Bravo Two Zero. And General Sir Peter de la Billière, commander of the British forces, launches his much-trailed diatribe against the Ministry of Defence. The combination of first-hand accounts from so many of the key participants, and intelligent editing, ensures a narrative of pace and authority.

The Larry Sanders Show/Seinfeld
BBC2, 11.15pm and 11.40pm

While not precisely a double bill these two American imports, each starting a new run, fit happily together. *Larry Sanders* (played by *Garry Shandling*) is a former stand-up comedian who hosts a television chat show. Jerry Seinfeld (played by himself) is a current stand-up comic who appears on television chat shows. *Each pokes fun at the medium which feeds him*, though the humour is genial rather than waspish. *Seinfeld*, which mixes stand-up routines and a sit-com format, probably offers the better value. It certainly has the quirkier material, mixing real characters (such as stars of *LA Law* and *Cheers*) with fictional ones and having, in the luckless Kramer, one of television comedy's great oddballs.

Peter Waymark

CARLTON

6.00am GMTV (2039712)

9.25 Win, Lose or Draw Quiz (s) (4582606)

9.55 London Today (Teletext) (6465248)

10.00 The Time . . . The Place (s) (1239644)

10.35 This Morning. Weekday magazine series. Includes **11.00 ITN News** Headlines (57470354) **12.20pm London Today** (6514793)

12.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (6828915)

12.55 Home and Away (Teletext) (6803606) **1.25 Chain Letters** (Teletext) (s) (32255151) **1.55 A Country Practice** (s) (64518151)

2.20 Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (18238199) **2.50 Capital Woman** with Julia Carling (s) (4765625)

3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (2417199) **3.25 London Today** and weather (Teletext) (2409170)

3.30 The Magic House (s) (2230557) **3.40 Tots TV** (s) (7814880) **3.50 Twinkle the Dream Being** (s) (7810064) **4.00 Budgie the Little Helicopter** (s) (2043151) **4.15 Santo Bugito** (5611052) **4.40 Cone Zone** (r). (Teletext) (s) (7945731)

5.10 After 5 With Caron Keating (6388880)

5.40 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (204002)

5.55 Your Shout. Viewers air their views (132847)

6.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (r) (557)

6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (809)

7.00 Emmerdale (Teletext) (1996)

7.30 NEW **The Investigators**. An exposé of London's fake fortune tellers (s) (793)

8.00 The Bill: Keeping It in the Family. An ice-cream vendor is assaulted (Teletext) (4204)

8.30 Outside Edge When Roger introduces Clive, a new young member to the team, he gets a chilly reception. (Teletext) (s) (9151)

William Hurt swallows a bitter pill (9.00pm)

9.00 FILM: The Doctor (1991). Poignant drama based on a true story about an excellent but cold and clinical surgeon who is diagnosed as having throat cancer. Starring William Hurt, Christine Lahti, Mandy Patinkin and Elizabeth Perkin. Directed by Randa Haines. (Teletext) (s) (5422) **Continues after the news**

10.00 ITN News at Ten and weather (Teletext) (44644) **10.30 London Tonight** (760248)

10.40 FILM: The Doctor continued (9495921)

12.05am FILM: White Cargo (1974). A middle-aged civil servant fantasises about being a superhero. Starring David Jason, Hugh Lloyd, Imogen Hassall and Tim Barrett. Directed by Ray Selfe (7631381)

1.25 NEW **Late and Loud**. Viewers are invited to a no-holds-barred live debate. Followed by **ITN News** headlines. (Teletext) (2691774)

2.25 Hotel Babylon hosted by Dani Behr. The guests include Sadie Frost and Liv Tyler (r) (6273478)

3.05 Funny Business (r) (48125768)

3.30 Endsleigh League Extra (r) (5790942)

4.15 Profile (s) (84291774)

***4.30 Bushell on the Box** (r) (s) (85025010)*

4.55 The Time . . . The Place (r) (s) (1718923)

5.30 ITN Morning News (31229)

CHANNEL 4

6.35am Think Tank (r) (Teletext) (s) (5119977)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (74460)

9.00 Fifteen To One (r) (Teletext) (s) (21793)

9.30 Stand Still, Be Fit (r) (s) (3623084)

9.45 FILM: Hudson's Bay (1940, b/w) The founding of the Hudson's Bay Trading Company with excellent portrayal of French trapper-explorer Pierre Radisson by Paul Muni. Directed by Irving Pichel. (Teletext) (87937354)

11.30 Living Memory: The 1960s (r) (1625)

12.00 House to House. Political discussion (41557)

12.30pm Sesame Street (60373)

1.30 Ovide Cy gains control (76308002)

1.55 The Goat (b/w). Buster Keaton waits in a queue for bread . . . but are those in front alive? (64516793)

2.20 FILM: Moon Over Miami (1941). Musical starring Betty Grable and Carole Landis as sisters who come into an inheritance, throw up their jobs, and go in search of husbands. Directed by Walter Land. (Teletext) (968002)

4.00 Backdate with Valerie Singleton (422)

4.30 Countdown (606)

5.00 The Montel Williams Show (Teletext) (s) (9708712)

5.50 Murun Buchstansangur (115170)

6.00 The Avengers: Never, Never Say Die. Steed and *Mrs Peel investigate the worrying mystery of walking* corpses (r) (Teletext) (87847)

7.00 Channel 4 News including at **7.30** headlines and weather (Teletext) (793118)

7.55 The Slot (592511)

Muriel Gray bids for a rail franchise (8.00pm)

8.00 Ride On (Teletext) (s) (8286)

8.30 Brookside. Rosie becomes the talk of the Close now she has confessed, and it is the final straw for Eddie. (Teletext) (s) (7793)

9.00 Return to the Dying Rooms. Disturbing new evidence of abandoned children in China. (Ceefax) (3064)

10.00 Dame Edna's Hollywood. The regal lady is in her palatial Hollywood home. (Teletext) (6151)

11.00 The Dying Rooms Debate. Sheena McDonald presents a discussion about the controversial issues raised by the distressing documentary, shown earlier, about how babies, and girls in particular, are deliberately left to die in China. (633170)

11.50 Nurses: Temporary Setbacks. With Dinah Manoff and Estelle Getty. (Teletext) (s) (744460)

12.20am Football Italia — Mezzanotte. Bari v Inter (9984590)

1.20 The World of Hammer narrated by Oliver Reed (3546836)

1.50 FILM: Texas Terror (1935 b/w) A young John Wayne finds the real baddie when he is falsely accused of killing his best friend. Directed by Robert Bradbury. (2158045)

2.45 The Singing Voice. This film explores the human voice (r) (s) (954478) Ends at **3.45**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 12.55 Gardens Without Borders (6803606) **1.25-1.55** Home and Away (32255151) **2.50-3.20** Chain Letters (4765625) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (6358850) **6.25** Anglia Weather (637977) **6.30-7.00** Anglia News (809) **7.30-8.00** Countryside (793) **12.00am** Prisoner Cell Block H (9504300) **12.55** Film: Goliath and the Barbarians (2532774) **2.25** Late and Loud (6255590) **3.25** The Chart Show (3828861) **4.20** Endsleigh League Extra (9329132) **5.00** On the Road to the Islands (33720)

CENTRAL

As London except: 2.50-3.20 Look and Cook (4765625) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (6358850) **6.25-7.00** Central News and Weather (635335) **7.30-8.00** Heart of the Country (793) **4.15am** Jobfinder (352068) **5.20** Asian Eye (3361652)

GRANADA

As London except: 12.55-1.25 Shortland Street (6803606) **1.25** Home and Away (77213147) **1.50-2.20** Chain Letters (76386283) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (6358850) **6.25-7.00** Granada Tonight (635335) **7.30-8.00** The Main Ingredient (793) **4.30-4.55** Jobfinder (85025010)

HTV WEST

As London except: 12.55 *Shortland Street* (3504839) **1.20** Lock and Cook (3225680) **2.20** Chain Letters (18238199) **2.50-3.20** Vanessa (4765625) **5.10-5.40** Animal Country (6388880) **6.25-7.00** HTV News (635335) **7.30-8.00** West Eye View (793) **12.00am** Prisoner Cell Block H (8006294) **12.55** Film: Goliath and the Barbarians (2532774) **2.25** Late and Loud (6255590) **3.25** The Chart Show (3828861) **4.20** Endsleigh League Extra (9329132) **5.00** On the Road to the Islands (33720)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except: 5.10-5.40 On the Road with [illegible] (6388880) **6.25-7.00** Wales Tonight (635335) **7.30-8.00** Know My Place (793)

MERIDIAN

As London except: 9.55am-10.00 Meridian News and Weather (6465248) **12.20pm-12.30** Meridian News and Weather (6514793) **12.55** Chain Letters (6803606) **1.25** Home and Away (32255151) **1.50-2.20** The Shortland Street (64518151) **2.50-3.20** The Afternoon Show (4765625) **3.25-3.30** Meridian News and Weather (2409170) **5.10** Home and Away (6388880) **5.37-5.40** Three Minutes - Making It Happen (11208) **6.00** Meridian Tonight (557) **6.30-7.00** Surprise Chefs (809) **7.30-8.00** 24 Hours (793) **10.30-10.40** Meridian News and Weather (760248) **12.05am** Prisoner Cell Block H (8006294) **12.55** Film: Goliath and the Barbarians (2532774) **2.25** Late and Loud (6255590) **3.25** The Chart Show (3828861) **4.20** Endsleigh League Extra (9329132) **5.00** Freescreen (33720)

WESTCOUNTRY

As London except: 12.55 Chain Letters (6803606) **1.25** Emmerdale (32255151) **1.55-2.20** Home and Away (64518151) **2.50-3.20** A Country Practice (4765625) **3.25-3.30** Westcountry News; Weather (2409170) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (6388880) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (58977) **7.30-8.00** The Middle Ages (793) **10.30-10.40** Westcountry News, Weather (760248) **12.00am** Prisoner Cell Block H (9804300) **12.55** Film: Goliath and the Barbarians (2532774) **2.25** Late and Loud (6255590) **3.25** The Chart Show (3828861) *4.20 Endsleigh League Extra (9329132)* **5.00** On the Road to the Islands (33720)

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 9.55-10.00 ITN News Headlines (6465248) **12.20pm-12.30** Calendar News and Weather (6514793) **1.55** Emmerdale (76385151) **2.25** Vanessa (18220170) **3.25-3.30** Calendar News (2409170) **5.10** Home and Away (6388880) **5.40** ITN News; Weather (204002) **5.55** Calendar / Network North (472793) **6.30-7.00** Tonight (809) **7.30-8.00** Who Do You Do? (793) **10.00** ITN News, Weather (44644) **10.30-10.40** Calendar News and Weather (760248) **12.05am** Film: Mischief (546720) **1.40** Bushell on the Box (6737316) **2.10** *Hotel Babylon (6278823)* **2.50** *Not Fade Away* (7747590) **3.50** Jones and Jury (66915923) **4.20** Jobfinder (3438652)

S4C

Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (74460) **9.00** Fifteen To One (21793) *9.30 Stand Still, Be Fit* (3623084) **9.45** Film: Hudson Bay (87937354) **11.30** 60 Years: The 1950s (1625) **12.00pm** House To House (41557) **12.30** Earthworm Jim (79828) **1.00** Slot Meithrin ABC (84847) **1.30** Time Team (61002) **2.30** Screaming Reels (170) **3.00** Love in The Afternoon (5441) **4.00** Backdate (422) **4.30** Saved By The Bell: The New Class (606) **5.00** 5 Pump: Uned 5 (2002) **5.30** Countdown (286) **6.00** Newyddion *(833064)* **6.15** *Heno* (384199) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (786480) **7.25** Dudley (946373) **8.00** Pacio (8286) **8.30** Newyddion (7793) **9.00** Gwerwyn Aur (3460) **9.30** Wild Britain (59064) **10.00** Brookside (42286) **10.30** Cutting Edge: Ringers (97170) **11.30** Rising Damp (33625) **12.00am** Film: Monty Python Live At The Hollywood Bowl (96403)

SATELLITE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY ONE

7.00am DJ Kat (21593) **8.00** Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (88248) **8.30** Press Your Luck (90847) **9.00** Court TV (81199) **9.30** Oprah Winfrey (74712) **10.30** Concentration (70083) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (47539) **12.00** Jeopardy! (61335) **12.30pm** Murphy Brown (89606) **1.00** The Waltons (27489) **2.00** Geraldo (65248) **3.00** Court TV (7335) **3.30** Oprah Winfrey (2365267) **4.15** Undun (4041422) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (1815) **6.00** *The Simpsons (5606)* **6.30** Jeopardy! (9286) **7.00** LAPD (2644) **7.30** M*A*S*H (8170) **8.00** The World of Geo (57644) **9.00** Chicago Hope (37880) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (47267) **11.00** Law and Order (14002) **12.00** Late Show with David Letterman (6360671) **12.45am** The Untouchables (6727774) **1.30** The Edge (70316) **2.00-6.00** Hit Mix

SKY NEWS

News on the hour.

6.00am Sunrise (9415335) **10.30** ABC Nightline (78625) **11.00** News and Business (91151) **1.30pm** CBS News (57557) **2.30** Parliament Live (32354) **3.30** Parliament Live (7064) **4.00** News and Business (78967) **5.00** Live at Five (18002) **6.30** Tonight (42628) **8.30** Target (8441) **9.00** News and Business (331538) **11.30** CBS News (15002) **12.30am** ABC News (10476) **1.30** Tonight (38331) **2.30** Worldwide Report (34958) **3.30** Parliament Replay (39403) **4.30** CBS News (48010) **5.30-6.00** ABC News (73229)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Sirocco (1951) (69809) **8.00 A Woman Rebels (1936)** (89828) **10.00 Prelude to a Kiss (1992)** (93422) **12.00 Clambake (1967)** (62151) **2.00pm Cat and the Canary (1979)** (61847) **4.00 Max Dugan Returns (1983)** (5847) **6.00 Prelude to a Kiss (1992)** (41083) **8.00** ***Mother's Boys (1993)*** (53828) **10.00 Ultimate Betrayal (1993)** (867286) **11.35 Mistress (1992)** (800151) **1.25am Revenge of the Nerds II: Nerds in Paradise (1987)** (2678010) **2.55 Sudden Fury (1993)** (3795671) **4.25-6.00 Clambake (1967)** (616316)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Lady in the Dark (1944) (5151) **6.00 Topkapi (1964)** (23625) **8.00 Guns at Batasi (1964)** (26170) **10.00 My Stepmother is an Alien (1988)** (957248)-**11.55** El Dorado (1967) (28143002) **2.05-3.35am Elvira Madigan (1967)** (8419565)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Yogi's Great Escape (1987) (50151) **8.00 We're Back! A Dinosaur's Story (1993)** (7887422) **9.15 The Corsican Brothers** (508354) **10.15 All That Heaven Allows (1956)** (41965606) **12.00 The Black Rose (1950)** (60793) **2.00pm Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit (1993)** (785606) **3.50 We're Back! A Dinosaur's Story (1993)** (3377880) **5.05 The Corsican Brothers** (8578354) **6.00 The Mommy Market (1993)** (84052) **7.30 Special Feature** (1880) **8.00 Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit (1993)** (44170) **10.00 Passenger 57 (1992)** (23847) **11.30 Untamed Heart (1993)** (365286) **1.15am Romantic Comedy (1983)** (284300) **3.00 Beyond Betrayal (1993)** (587039) **4.40-6.00 The Mommy Market (1993)** (1965010)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold from 10pm to 4am.

6.00am Umbrella Tree (31254996) **6.30** Fraggle Rock (29571278) **7.00** Winnie the Pooh (63622165) **7.30** Ducktales (88472462) *8.00 Chip 'n' Dale (49003151)* **8.30** Wonderland (49002422) **9.00** Walt Disney Presents (31263844) **10.00** Umbrella Tree (49371070) **10.30** Fraggle Rock (49022286) **11.00** Muppet Babies (69381170) **11.30** Pooh Corner (69399199) **12.00** Quack Attack (49013538) **12.30pm** Dumbo's Circus (19690070) **1.00** Wonderland (64072606) **1.30** Boy Meets World (10040511) **2.00** Thunder Alley (20408809) **2.30** Stick With Me Kid (18957118) **3.30** Winnie the Pooh (99986278) **4.00** Quack Attack (14636575) **4.30** Ducktales (18236539) **5.00** Chip 'n' Dale (20422489) **5.30** Danger Bay (80236718) **6.00** Tarzan (83293082) **6.30** Dinosaurs (13286034) **7.00** Walt Disney Presents (20300489) **8.00** FILM: Lost in the Barrens (84418248) *9.30-10.00 Teacher of the Year Awards* (29595435)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Rally Raid (55373) **8.00** Supercross (32606) **9.00** Speedworld (49985) **10.30** Rally Raid (40977) **11.00** Football (31793) **12.00** Football (71335) **1.00pm** Extreme Games (80083) **2.00** Tractor Pulling (29460) **3.00** Athletics (55712) **4.00** Cross-Country Skiing (21915) **5.30** Live Handball (6799129) *6.45 Handball (832557)* *7.00 Live Handball* (28002) **8.30** Rally Raid (8083) **9.00** Snooker (81625) **11.00** Darts (52286) **12.00-12.30am** Rally Raid (32942)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Sports Centre (41170) **7.30** Racing

Sterling Hayden plans a heist: The Asphalt Jungle **(TNT, 9pm)**

News (37977) **8.00** Watersports World (47538) **9.00** Aerobics Oz Style (59625) **9.30** Skill Sailing (98644) **10.00** Scottish Football (76880) **12.00** Cricket: South Africa v England (1038441) **8.25pm** Sports Centre (335647) **8.30** Cricket: India v England (22489) **10.00** Sports Centre (70118) **10.30** Boots 'n' All (25002) **11.30** Cricket Highlights (56460) **1.00am** Cricket (88565) **2.30-3.00** Sports Centre (28652)

SKY SPORTS GOLD

10.00pm Diego Maradona (1007129) **10.30** Golden Gloves (2589625) **11.30** Motor Racing (8566625) **12.30-1.00am** World Sport Memories: 1984 (3218403)

SKY TRAVEL

11.00am Globetrotter (4818712) **11.30** Trailside (4819441) **12.00** On Top of the World (6952070) **12.30pm** Frugal Gourmet (5269880) **1.00** Around the World (7808489) **1.30** Travel Guide (5268151) **2.00** Ski (3651129) **3.00** Getaway (6323712) **3.30-4.00** Boomerang (2451489)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm World War II, Spoils of War (4809064) **5.00** Subway: Empire Beneath the Street (8314064) *6.00-7.00 Biography: FDR* (5284199)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

7.00pm Inside Space (8315793) **7.30** Sci-Fi Buzz (2437809) **8.00-10.00** FILM: Tremors (4206441) **1.00am** Inside Space (8575818) **1.30** Sci-Fi Buzz (8458652) **2.00-4.00** FILM: Tremors (5048958)

TLC

9.00am Painting (6803460) **9.30** Grow with Joe (7250712) **10.00** Two's Country (7650083) **10.30** Our House (6809644) *11.00 The Painted House (5283625)* **11.30** Running Repairs (5284354) **12.00** Julia Child (6890996) **12.30pm** The Frugal Gourmet (7261828) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (8326880) **1.30** Local Heroes (7260199) **2.00** Dogs (2787267) **2.30** Secret Gardens (1057731) **3.00** Two's Country (2799002) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (1036248)

UK GOLD

7.00am Angels (8336267) **7.30** Neighbours (8348002) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (6899257) **8.30** EastEnders (6898538) **9.00** The Bill (6812118) **9.30** The Sullivans (7252170) **10.00** Howard's Way (8344286) **11.00** Dallas (8324422) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (6892354) **12.30pm** Neighbours (7263285) **1.00** EastEnders (8335538) **1.30** The Bill (7262557) **2.00** The Sullivans (61414083) **2.25** Are You Being Served? (2633286) **3.00** Angels (2791460) **3.30** Eldorado (1038606) **4.00** Casualty (35812977) *5.05 Generation Game* (77712354) **6.15** Comic Cuts (8161170) **6.25** EastEnders (7145444) **7.00** Eldorado (2783441) **7.30** Happy Ever After (1047354) **8.00** George and Mildred (9314606) **8.25** Butterflies (7750915) **9.00** The Sweeney (4055977) **10.00** The Bill (9093996) **10.35** Classic Sport (6402199) **11.35** Carrott Confidential (1593625) **12.15am** Dr Who: The Invasion of Time (2712039) **12.45** FILM: Killer Party (3881403) **2.20** Shopping

TCC

6.00am Swan's Crossing (98737) **6.30** Pugwall's Summer (85151) **7.00** Ready or Not (24538) **7.30** California Dreams (36373) **8.00** Sweet Valley High (96170) **8.30** Tiny TCC (55025460) **12.35pm** Tiny TCC (49042977) **2.30** Jim Henson's Animal Show (4151) **3.00** Sonic the Hedgehog (4809) **3.30** The New Pink Panther Show (6996) **4.00** California Dreams (8731) **4.30-6.00** Sweet Valley High (4915)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Henry's Cat (5730606) **6.15** Blue (650996) **6.45** Toucan Tex (9481199) **7.00** *Batfink (7533880)* **7.05** *Grimmy (6207354)* **7.45** Nicktoon (1403557) **9.00** Alvin (57267) **9.30** Pee-Wee (94286) **10.00** Banana Sandwich (57731) **11.00** Children's BBC (44267) **12.00** Magic School Bus (60731) **12.30pm** Grimmy (98002) **1.00** Global Guts (48083) **1.30** Visionaries (97373) **2.00** Children's BBC (15426) **3.00** Pet Shop (1793) **3.30** Hero Turtles (3880) **4.00** The Ferals (2915) *4.30 Rugrats (8199)* *5.00 Sister Sister (3538)* **5.30** Mission Top Secret (2151) **6.00** Ren (9064) **6.30** Pete (3644) **7.00** The Odyssey (6002) **7.30-8.00** Dracula (9828)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Bush Tucker Man (1048083) **4.30** Lifeboat (1044267) **5.00** Treasure (2701847) **5.30** Terra X **6.00** Invention (1058460) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (2465192) **7.30** Arthur C Clarke (1045996) **8.00** Azimuth (4066083) **9.00** Weapons (5203489) **9.30** Blood and Honour (7241064) **10.00** Classic Wheels (4056606) **11.00-12.00** Compass (8343557)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM The Slime People (6040731) **1.30pm** Death Valley Days (7257625) **2.00** Danger Man (7655539) **3.00** The Buccaneers (2793828) **3.30** William Tell (1056002) **4.00** FILM. Gilbert and Sullivan (2797644) **6.00** Dead at 21 (1052286) **6.30** Automan (6372098) **7.30** The Protectors (1032422) **8.00** Space 1999 (4060809) **9.00** Alien Nation (4073373) **10.00-12.00** FILM Blame It on Rio (5281267)

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony Hour (5796083) **7.00** Kilroy (9818915) **8.00** Esther (9439880) **8.30** Indoor Garden (9438151) **9.00** Tastes of Wales (3377996) **9.35** Kate and Allie *(2574809)* *10.05 Jerry Springer (8518118)* **11.00** Young and Restless (8820267) **11.55** Brookside (6552354) **12.30pm** Dangerous Women (6270444) **1.30** Crosswits (8502064) **2.00** Agony Hour (2196335) **3.00** Live at Three (1133996) **4.00** Infatuation UK (1668267) **4.30** Crosswits (3260828) **5.05** Lingo (82630248) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (1671731) **6.00** Bewitched (1678644) **6.30** Brookside (2277977) **7.05** Madhur Jaffrey's Indian Cookery (2020118) **7.40** Joker's Wild (1171460) **8.05** Young and Restless (5291731) **9.00** FILM. Courage (92240731) **11.35-12.00** Sex Life (3472793)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Ocean Odyssey (9354) **5.30** Tintin (660644) **5.55** Batman (303625) **6.30** Catchphrase (9460) **7.00** Through the Keyhole (9118) **7.30** My Two Dads (5644) **8.00** Critical List (31644) **10.00** Treasure Hunt (10151) **11.00** Neon Rider (33286) **12.00** Tintin (54132) **12.30am** Bordertown (41136) **1.00** Batman (30294) **1.30** Rhoda (50590) **2.00** Big Brother Jake (54403) **2.30** Neon Rider (16590) **3.30** Rhoda (57590) **4.00** Big Brother Jake (72855) **4.30-5.00** Ocean Odyssey (24687)

MTV

6.30am The Grind (94809) **7.00** 3 from 1 (9138248) **7.15** Awake (3954793) **8.00** Music Videos (900002) **11.00** Soul (14151) **12.00** Greatest Hits (15793) **1.00pm** Music Non-Stop (50651118) **2.45** 3 from 1 (8979286) **3.00** Cinematic (1662644) **3.15** Hanging Out *(1287731)* **4.00** News *(8725847)* **4.15** Hanging Out (8708170) **4.30** Dial MTV (6373) **5.00** Most Wanted (1712) **5.30** Boom! (7625) **6.00** Hanging Out (4538) **6.30** Sports (8118) **7.00** Greatest Hits (20538) **8.00** Most Wanted (7996) **8.30** Alternative Music (58712) **9.30** Beavis (16422) **10.00** News (172847) **10.15** Cinematic (160002) **10.30** Real World London (85064) **11.00** The End? (51441) **12.30am** Night Videos (9333768)

VH-1

7.00am Power Breakfast (7890460) **9.00** Café (8761606) **12.00** Heart and Soul (5280373) **1.00pm** The Vinyl Years (5266793) **2.00** Kirsty McColl (1851147) **3.00** Into the Music (2382712) **6.00** UB40 (5286557) **7.00** VH-1 for You (4295335) **8.00** Tuesday Review (4204083) **9.00** Right Said Fred (4224847) **10.00** The Vinyl Years (4294606) **11.00** Tommy Vance (8576002) **1.00am** Neil and Tim Finn (2463126) **2.00** *Dawn Patrol*

ZEE TV

7.00am Asian Morning (86125422) **8.30** Films Chakkar (10301070) **9.00** Punjabi FILM (90886489) **12.00** Dekh Bhai Dekh (25640645) **12.30pm** Andaz (53310557) **1.00** Hindi Movie (62644199) **4.00** Doosra Kewal (11230170) **4.30** Nukkad (11236354) **5.00** Zee Zone (37461847) **5.30** Tamil Series (11227606) **6.00** India Business Report *(11257847)* *6.30 Zee and U (11249199)* **7.00** Urdu Special (57292915) **8.00** News (37450731) **8.30** Hindi FILM (53028422) **11.30-12.00** Scandal

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 7pm, then TNT films as below.

7.00pm Gypsy Colt (1954) (89822803) **9.00 The Asphalt Jungle (1950)** (20387538) **11.00 Undercurrent (1946)** (42920170) **12.40am G-Man (1935)** (97819403) **2.15-4.15 The Secret Six (1931)** (14908855)

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هكذا من الأصل

GOLF 39
FALDO SETTLES
FOR SECOND BEST
IN SAN DIEGO

SPORT

TUESDAY JANUARY 9 1996

AMERICAN FOOTBALL 42
PACKERS TURN BACK
CLOCK ON RUN-IN
TO SUPER BOWL

Russell loses place as wicketkeeper

England give Stewart the gloves again

FROM SIMON WILDE IN CAPE TOWN

JACK RUSSELL has been left out of England's team for the first of seven one-day internationals against South Africa here tomorrow, despite his excellent all-round form in the Test series that ended last week. The gauntlets have returned to Alec Stewart in a side that Raymond Illingworth, the England manager, described as the strongest that could have been picked in the circumstances.

The decision to overlook Russell, who last played a limited-overs game for England five years ago, was taken in the interests of the balance of the side, as was that to select only five specialist batsmen, with Robin Smith giving way to Neil Fairbrother. The lower middle order is filled by three all-rounders, White, Reeve and Neil Smith, who, with Watkinson omitted and Richard Illingworth injured, plays *his first match for England as* the sole specialist spin bowler.

With seven bowlers to share 50 overs and everyone capable *of making runs, the result is* that England possess the kind *of depth of resources that* enabled them to do so well *during the last World Cup. It* is a versatility that South Africa, for one, are keen to emulate. England's last place is filled by Gough, who bowled impressively in his first match for a month on Saturday and was preferred to DeFreitas.

Stewart's long-standing role as opening batsman and wicketkeeper in one-day cricket has been rarely contentious but he has recently looked so vulnerable with the bat that it may not survive the series. England, like South Africa, view these matches primarily as preparation for the World Cup and Russell, whose average was only slightly inferior to Stewart in the Tests (28.00 compared to 29.37), may yet find himself the first-choice wicketkeeper come the start of that tournament on February 14.

For two teams to meet seven times in 13 days is unprecedented even in the whistle-stop world of one-day cricket. Such a schedule, at venues all over South Africa, will sorely test the stamina and commitment of those who play in every game, although England expect to give a game to all 17 members of their reshuffled party.

England originally wanted only five matches but accepted seven in exchange for them being held back until after the *Test series. Too often in the past, limited-overs matches have hindered England's* preparations for overseas Test series, with all too predictable results.

TEAMS

SOUTH AFRICA (from): W J Cronje (captain), *P Adams, N Boje, D J Cullinan,* A A Donald, A C Hudson, J H Kallis, G Kirsten, B M McMillan, C R Matthews, S M Pollock, J N Rhodes, D J Richardson, R P Snell, P L Symcox.

ENGLAND: M A Atherton (captain), A J Stewart, G A Hick, G P Thorpe, N H Fairbrother, C White, D A Reeve, N M K Smith, D G Cork, P J Martin, D Gough

Umpires: K Liebenberg, D Orchard. **Replay umpire:** R Brooks.

FIXTURES: Today: Cape Town (day-night) Jan 11: Bloemfontein (day-night). Jan 13: Johannesburg. Jan 14: Verwoerdburg. Jan 17: Durban (day-night) Jan 19: East London (day-night) Jan 21: Port Elizabeth.

That both sides are more concerned with testing their players than winning the series has not diminished the appetite of the South African public for the one-day game. Today's match, the first of four under floodlights, is sold out to Newlands' capacity of 23,000 and the United Cricket Board of South Africa anticipates that it will be a similar story at other grounds.

South Africa are expected to make more imaginative use of their specialist wicketkeeper *than England. David Richard*son's batting is, like Russell's, not suited to the one-day pyrotechnics expected of those positioned from No 6 to No 8 and so he, McMillan and Snell may all at times be used high in the order to take advantage of the fielding restrictions in force during the first 15 overs of an innings, with the natural strokemakers held back until the later stages.

It is a strategy England would be wise to look at closely, although judging by the expression on Raymond Illingworth's face at the idea of Neil Smith opening the batting in a one-day match for England — as he does for Warwickshire — it is unlikely to be adopted in the near future.

*Smith is not the only spin*ner who should make his debut *today; so, too, should* Paul Adams in front of an *adoring home crowd. In his* brief one-day career, Adams *has proved economical and* could have a key role to play in *the World Cup on the slow* pitches of the Asian sub*continent.*

The teams have met only *four times before, twice during* the World Cup in 1992 and twice in England two years later. England won all four matches, most famously the World Cup semi-final in Sydney when rain interrupted the game with South Africa requiring 22 runs from 13 balls, which the rule governing rain-breaks revised to 21 from one ball.

For this series, for which no extra days have been set aside to cater for rain, a new system has been introduced. Based on a method devised by a schoolboy from — as chance would have it — Cape Town, where it did rain yesterday, it is so complex that a computer is *required to perform the recal*culations and even Professor *Stephen Hawking would* struggle to explain it briefly. It *should, though, eliminate the* risk of further farce and may *be used in the World Cup.*

Lynagh gets to grips with a Saracens ball after the announcement that he is to join the club on a three-year contract. Photograph: Tony White

Saracens sign Lynagh and chase Sella

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL LYNAGH, rugby *union's world record points* accumulator, is to join Saracens next *season. The London* club gleefully confirmed their capture of the former Australia captain yesterday and were even able to offer the captivating morsel that Philippe Sella, of France, could yet join him.

It is the most significant coup the unfashionable Saracens have achieved in their 120-year history. So often living in the shade of Harlequins and Wasps, the acquisition of Lynagh on a three-year contract brings to the club a player of world stature, his achievements fresh in the minds of rugby supporters but also a competitor whose influence on his new colleagues will be huge.

The agreement has been made possible by the cash *injection of Nigel Wray, the* property businessman whose *wealth has turned Saracens* into a limited company. Yet *even before Wray's £2.5 million contribution,* announced in November, Saracens were *talking to Lynagh about the* possibility of a move from *Italy where he has played club* rugby for Treviso for five *seasons.*

Their timing was perfect. Lynagh, who retired from international rugby after winning his 72nd and last cap in Australia's defeat by England during the World Cup last June, had no firm plans after this season. "It was not a decision I took lightly, but I have always thought it would be lovely to play in London and the innovative ideas Saracens put forward tickled me," Lynagh, 32, said. Since Lynagh's business background is also in property development, the possibilities of an association with Wray are obvious.

It is hard to overemphasise the experience he will bring — though when he will bring it *remains an issue. As matters* stand, Lynagh will have to *serve a 180-day residential* qualification and he is com*mitted to Treviso until mid-*May — assuming they are successful in reaching the Italian club championship final.

He hopes to be married to his Italian fiancée, Isabella, *during the summer but is keen* to take up residence in London *early enough to get to know* the environs of Southgate *thoroughly. If, indeed, Saracens are* still at Southgate next season. Wray spoke yesterday *of playing rugby in a new* arena, one better suited to the *ambitions of a club seeking a* place in Europe, either via a *ground-sharing scheme or by* developing a derelict stadium.

Lynagh's international career began in 1984, when he also played in the Australian team to achieve a grand slam on tour in Britain and Ireland. It included a key role in the 1991 team that won the World Cup and ended, loaded with honours, as Australia's stand-off half and captain, and one of the world's great decision-makers.

Though he has had differences of opinion with the Australian rugby establishment, Lynagh's loyalty is unquestioned — he has played only for Brisbane University, Queensland and, during the *northern hemisphere season,* Treviso. "This will be a new *challenge and I'm looking* forward to contributing to the *success of Saracens,"* he said. "Apart from playing to the *best of my ability, I see myself* assisting the club to attract the people of this town to come *and watch rugby.* We will have to play good rugby to *attract them, and offer good* facilities to look after them. I *can also share with the players* some of my knowledge, from a *southern hemisphere* and international perspective."

*There should be consider*able commercial spin-off for Saracens who also see Lynagh as a significant attraction for their junior members. "It's important for the ideas Nigel has that there are good juniors at the club," Lynagh said. It is also important to Saracens that they do not lose their place in the first division this season; Lynagh watched their defeat by Wasps last Saturday which leaves them third from bottom.

"We are very keen to make Saracens one of the finest clubs in Europe," Mike Smith, their chief executive-designate, *said. To that end, negotiations* continue with Sella, the most *capped player in the world,* who has expressed his hope of playing a season *in London.*

FACTFILE

1963: Born Brisbane, October 25.
1984: Plays first of 72 Tests, against Fiji in Suva. Kicks three penalties in 16-3 win to begin run of 59 consecutive Test-scoring appearances and world record points haul of 911, in which he also sets new world records for conversions (140) and penalty goals (177). Member of Australia team that completes grand slam on tour of Britain
1987: Appears in inaugural World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.
1988: Kicks Australian record of eight conversions against Italy, a feat he repeats *two years later against United States.*
1990: Twice scores Australian match record of 24 points — against France and United States, both in Brisbane.
1991: Plays leading role in Australia's World Cup victory in England. Begins five-year spell with Treviso, in Italy.
1992: Succeeds Nick Farr-Jones as captain of Australia.
1995: Retires after Australia's World Cup quarter-final defeat in South Africa.
1996: Signs three-year contract with Saracens.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

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No 673

ACROSS
1 Go on strike (4,5)
6 Shell of peas (3)
8 Voltaire work (7)
9 Praise exceedingly (5)
10 The postal system (4)
11 Enjoyment (8)
13 Soapy froth (6)
14 *Small French* café (6)
17 Fiend: dishevel (*anag.*) (3-5)
18 Shivering fit (4)
20 Accommodation (5)
21 Finger-exercise composition (7)
22 Severe personal damage (*abbr.*) (1,1,1)
23 Thinning (of departing crowd) (9)

DOWN
1 Based on tens (7)
2 A A Milne bear (6-3-4)
3 Spruce; change opinion as needed (4)
4 Without concealment (6)
5 *Plot outline; possible future* sequence (8)
6 Made to retire (3,3,2,5)
7 Dig deep (5)
12 Turned about (8)
15 In general: a garment (7)
16 *Break (in series)* (6)
17 Lift shoulders expressively (5)
19 4840 sq. yards (4)

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Clubs fight Uefa 'foreigners' rule

BY JOHN GOODBODY
AND PETER BALL

MANCHESTER United will join other leading continental clubs in a meeting with Uefa next month to demand that they field as many European Union (EU) nationals as they wish in the three cup competitions. There is an implied threat that the clubs, which would have the backing of the European Court of Justice, could break away from European football's governing body, if it refuses to follow the ruling of the Bosman decision that the present Uefa regulations are illegal.

Maurice Watkins, a director and the solicitor of United, said yesterday: "We have never been able to play the team that won the championship in Europe so we are very concerned about the position."

Under Uefa's regulations, a club can only field three foreigner players plus two "assimilated" players for European cup competitions. An assimilated player is one who has lived in the country for five years or who has played in that club's youth team. In the ruling on Jean-Marc Bosman last month, the European Court reiterated the regulations of the 1957 Treaty of Rome, which emphasises the free movement of labour within the EU. No organisation or country can place a limit on the number of EU nationals appearing for clubs.

Uefa has refused to alter its regulations for this season's competitions, in which only Nottingham Forest survive of the English clubs. However, the FA Premier League, which will be meeting with the European Commission in Brussels on Thursday, has already changed its own regulations to comply with the Court's judgment.

Watkins said: "How Uefa has interpreted it is totally wrong. We tackled them on it pre-Bosman but they are still trying to hold onto their system. I think Uefa should react to this decision in a considered manner. That would be helpful for everyone. We have the legal ruling and we have to abide by it."

Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, was in Italy at the weekend to watch Milan play Sampdoria as part of *Gazzetta dello Sport*'s centenary celebrations, amid rumours that he was interested in signing Zvonimir Boban, Milan's midfield player, for a reported £4 million.

Ferguson discovered yesterday that he would have 24 hours fewer to prepare for his side's FA Cup visit to Sunderland than anticipated. Sky has selected the game as its televised third round replay, and it has been moved forward to Tuesday, January 16. On the same night, Sheffield United and Arsenal meet to decide which club will host the BBC cameras in the fourth round, the BBC selecting Aston Villa's visit to Bramall Lane or Highbury for its live game on Sunday, January 28. Sky will show Queens Park Rangers' match with Chelsea or Newcastle the next night.

Weah honoured 40

Trainer guilty of mistaken identity

Julian Muscat on the strange affair of the interloper in the 2.15 at Southwell

PHILIP MARSHALL, a punter from Sutton-In-Ashford, felt angry with himself as the 5-2 chance he backed with £700 *beat a retreat in the* 2.15 at Southwell yesterday. *His rage settled on a different* target when he learnt, all too *late, that Taniyar was not the* horse described in the official racecard.

For the quadruped innocently masquerading as Taniyar was his inferior stablemate, Loch Style, who was at Southwell to compete in a later race. It was some time before Reg Hollinshead, who trains both horses, realised he had *perpetrated* a case of mistaken identity.

Marshall, *unsurprisingly,* found little trace of humour *within the farce. "It's an* absolute disgrace," he said. "I would never have backed the horse if I'd known it was the other one. It would have been *a 33-1 chance at least."*

Not quite a pantomime *horse, Loch Style had no* chance of landing the 12-furlong Waterford Median Auction Maiden Stakes under the guise of Taniyar. Loch Style is a year younger, and only has enough stamina for races at around seven furlongs. As Ray Cochrane, who rode the horse, later told Hollinshead: "That horse *wouldn't have stayed a mile in* a horsebox."

Punters "in the know" could have made a killing: the real Taniyar was perceived as the sole danger to the favourite, Yougo, who duly romped to victory. Off-course bookmakers quickly acknowledged *there was no sinister* intent on Hollinshead's part. *They treated all bets on* Taniyar in the non-runner category. Those, like Marshall, who backed the horse at Southwell, were left licking their financial wounds.

"I can only apologise to punters who have had a few quid on," Hollinshead, a racehorse trainer for more than 40 years, said. "It was just an *unfortunate error."* He added that the confusion arose *because the horses are of* similar size and shape.

The Southwell stewards are to send a report of the incident to the Jockey Club, whose officials will decide whether *Hollinshead, 72, should sit* before the disciplinary com*mittee.* William Nunneley, the stewards' secretary at Southwell, was as bemused as anyone. "The trainer was very honest. Thank God the horse involved didn't win."

Hollinshead: no sinister intent

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HOW NUTRITION AFFECTS AGEING

RONALD GRANT

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When the American chemist Linus Pauling, a double Nobel prizenner, started taking largeuantities of vitamin C, colleaes *suspected he was* turni a little strange. He lived be 93.

Pang's habit is now shar by millions of people whotart the day with a hand of pills. Is it just hypcondria, or will the pills helpnem to prolong their livesnding off cancer, heart dise and brain deteriorationThe evidence isn't completer conclusive, but what then *is mostly encouraging.*

Rntly the focus has begun shift from vitamins to othesubstances in plants, knov as phytochemicals or protive factors. There may be hdreds of such factors, mantill unidentified, which coulbe as important as vitars in countering the proces that damage cells and d to disease.

Taquercetin, for example, a chical found in onions, tomas, berries, olive oil, red winend tea. Dr Michael *Hert of the Dutch National* Instit of Public Health, repot last year that quercetin *: similar compounds* coulelp to explain the large differes in heart disease betw *different countries.*

Evsince the pioneering studif Dr Ancel Keys in the 1950s*d 1960s, these differ*encesve provided the basis for comning saturated fats. In l "Seven Countries StudDr Keys concluded that ias the differences in fat sumption that explainwhy Mediterranean count enjoyed such low rates eart disease.

Dr Hertog has looked again at the seven nations in the study and found that the amounts of quercetin and other similar compounds (known collectively as flavo*noids) in their diets ranged* from 6mg a day in Finland to 64mg a day in Japan. The more that was eaten, *the lower* the risk of dying of a heart attack.

So could the differences in heart disease be the result of the flavonoids as well as, or rather than, the fats? Epidemiological studies, again in Holland, lend some support. In 800 elderly Dutch men, the group who consumed most *flavonoids* were 60 per cent less likely to die of heart disease within five years than *those who consumed least. In* middle-aged men, the risk of stroke was reduced by the *same amount.*

> 'All forms of alcohol are equally effective, in moderate doses, in reducing heart disease'

According to Dr Hertog, 90 per cent of the variation in mortality rates in the Seven Nations Study could be accounted for by just three variables: smoking, saturated fats and flavonoids.

At the Institute of Food Research in Norwich, Dr Gary Williamson is trying to discover how flavonoids and other protective factors work. "Without doubt they provide some benefit, but how much, and by what mechanism, we don't yet know," he says.

Dr Williamson identifies three different types of com*pound that may be important:* the vitamins C and E and beta-carotene (which is converted into vitamin A in the body), the flavonoids, and the sulphur-containing compounds that are found in onions and brassicas. Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage and cauliflower are rich sources of this last group, which in animal studies have been shown to cut the risks of cancer.

Vitamins and protective factors are believed to work by quenching the activities of highly-reactive chemical species produced by the body's metabolism.

These so-called "free radicals" contain oxygen in an active form which can damage genetic material. Among their jobs is the destruction of bacteria, parasites and virus-infected cells, so they are certainly useful in fighting infections. But they can also damage healthy cells.

Professor *Bruce* Ames, of the University of California at Berkeley, has estimated that *the DNA in every cell in the* body takes about 10.000 "hits" a day from oxygen free radicals. *The DNA repair system* is highly reliable and can put most of them right, but over time damage accumulates. In two-year-old rats there are about two million DNA lesions per cell, twice as many as in young rats.

Mutations tend to accumulate with age, and — so the theory goes — the process may be speeded up or slowed down *by diet or behaviour. Smoking* increases the rate of oxidation damage, and depletes the nat*ural defences. But eating foods* high in antioxidants, such as vitamins C and E, beta-carotene, *selenium or the* phytochemicals — reduces the risk of damage.

The *process* of oxidative damage underlies many of the changes that take place as we age. In rats, a severely restricted diet prolongs life, a change that Professor Ames attributes to reduced oxidative damage. He has found that rats raised on a barely adequate diet have less oxidised protein and fewer DNA lesions.

A possible explanation may *be that when there is little food* available, rats delay sexual maturity and devote more of *their resources to the mainte*nance of their body. This could explain why they seem to show lower levels of cell damage, but near-starvation is not a course that could be recommended, or would be followed, by human beings.

Some physicians believe that the health effects of red wine may be due to protective factors derived from the grapes from which they are made. Experiments have shown that the phenols found *in wine can limit the oxidation* of the low-density lipoprotein in the bloodstream, which *would have the effect of slow*ing the blocking of the arteries. But the evidence seems to be that all *forms* of alcohol are equally effective in moderate doses in reducing heart disease.

"There's no doubt that our main dietary problem is lack of antioxidants," Dr Anne Walker, senior lecturer in human nutrition at Reading University, says. "If we could rectify this and get people to increase their intake of fruit *and vegetables to five servings* per day, we would see a great reduction in chronic disease."

The only practical way to increase antioxidants even further is to take vitamin supple*ments. While many doctors* dismiss such pills as just a way of producing expensive urine, trials show overdoses of vitamins can help. In a group of 22,000 American doctors, those with minor signs of heart disease who took 50mg of beta-carotene every two *days — ten times the recom*mended level — had 50 per cent fewer heart attacks.

Not all trials, it should be said, show similarly good results, but for those who are *persuaded, the only way to* achieve these high levels of antioxidants is by taking vita*min supplements.*

So far, there are no pills on the market containing phytochemicals, though they may be coming.

NIGEL HAWKES

Food that leaves you full of beans

SECRETS OF SOYA

IT possible that the elusive anti-age pill already exists — in the shape of tsoya bean.

N research from Britain, America anpan suggests that eating a range of s products can save women from bre.and other cancers and protect youDNA *against damage by free* rads — one of the main reasons for the ysical deterioration that we call *age*

Tlapanese are among the longest-livipeople in the world, and the *rea may well be that they* eat soya prots in almost every meal. Consumon is about 30 times greater than in Bin.

Tbean is packed with chemicals which are thought to help to prevent disease. The protein in it discourages, *and may even help to reverse, cardiovas*cular disease by reducing the levels of "bad" cholesterol (the sort that clogs the *arteries) while boosting levels of the* "good" sort.

It also conserves calcium, unlike the *protein from meat*, helping to prevent osteoporosis, a problem which often occurs in older women.

Two amino-acids in soya — glycine and arginine — reduce insulin in the blood and help to keep sugar levels on an even keel. This guards against the *problems of excessive weight gain and* age-related diabetes.

Soya appears to be the nearest thing we have to an anti-cancer food. One chemical found in the bean — a molecule that inhibits an enzyme which breaks down certain proteins — has been heralded by some US researchers as "a universal cancer preventative agent". Another blocks an enzyme *which turns on the genes which cancer*ous cells use to create new blood vessels to feed them. Hence, it effectively nips potential tumours in the bud.

Breast cancer has been found to be reduced by about 65 per cent in people who eat large quantities of soya. This cancer is particularly sensitive to the effects of oestrogen, which speeds up its development.

Collaborative research between Manchester and Hong Kong universities has identified chemicals in soya *bean which resemble oestrogen — but* instead of stimulating hormone-sensitive cancers these chemicals inhibit them.

It is believed that the plant-derived hormone is chemically similar enough to the sort produced in the body to latch on to the oestrogen receptors in the breast tissue, blocking off the body's own hormone. However, these chemicals are not similar enough to encourage cell division, so they have a protective effect.

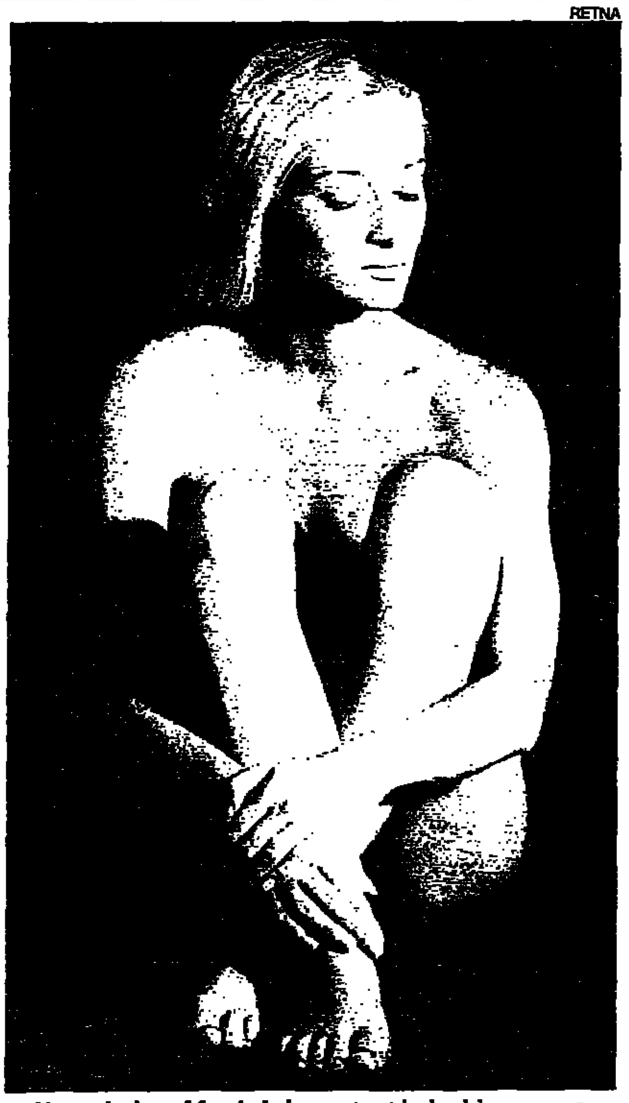
The natural oestrogen in soya also gives protection against prostate cancer, *and, probably, ovarian and womb* cancer, too.

To benefit from the anti-ageing effects *of soya it is important to eat the protein.* This is found in tofu, textured soya protein, soya flour, soya milk, and of course, the whole bean. Unfortunately, soy sauce and soyabean oil contain very few of the magic ingredients.

RITA CARTER

A fresh diet for a healthy body

WHICH FOODS TO EAT


RETNA

Your choice of foods is important in looking young

Eing used to be so nple. "A little of what u fancy," said granny (accuʻly, as it turned out), whilee medical textbooks mere ecommended "a balanceod varied diet". Today, the sch for an elixir of life has sed from the laboratory to kitchen — and is more fruitfor the change.

Thiseases that kill most peop— cancers and heart disea— are the very ones *in* vhicnutrition plays the biggest rt. In the package of fctowhich decide how long you ll live, environmental ffec — of which eating is robly the most important - he as much impact as ene inheritance. And, unke our genes, nutrition is omthing you can control.

Tl healthiest diet is probably . Mediterranean one: *nass of fruit and vegetables.* olive oil, fish and bread, vasd down with plenty of ed ine.

Fsh is an important word ler. If a carrot is picked and tord before being boiled for 20 mnutes, by the time it gets intoour body its high load of lifeenhancing antioxidants *will be practically destroyed.* By contrast, a carrot which is picked and frozen on the same daythen lightly cooked three noths later will probably hav most of its antioxidants inta.

Phytotherapy involves using foodas a form of medicine. Many foods contain chemicals — apart from antioxidants — which protect against age-related diseases. Cheese, fish, and nuts, for example, contain high levels of calcium which protects against osteoporosis. More than 300 foods contain a type of oestrogen *which is* thought to help to prevent breast and prostate cancers *and heart disease. High-fibre* foods such as vegetables and wholegrains also help to protect against *several* types of cancer, as do foods rich in selenium (nuts, tuna, liver), zinc (oysters, crabmeat, pumpkin seeds) and magnesium (nuts, yeast and brown rice).

Your risk of heart disease and colon cancer can be reduced by taking a small daily dose of aspirin. Alternatively, *you can find a natural aspirin*-like compound in blueberries, cherries, currants, curry powder and dried dates. Senile dementia may be prevented by a diet rich in B vitamins (yeast, meat, eggs) while late-onset diabetes can usually be controlled by a diet low in sugar and high in fibre.

Men who want to keep their sperm agile and plentiful can help by eating lots of vitamin C-rich foods (all fruit and vegetables). Heart disease is largely a diet-related problem: a low-fat, high-fibre diet will cut the risk dramatically.

Again there is no need to memorise each individual food component: as with antioxidants, it is enough simply to eat a Mediterranean-type diet, with a few additions to take account of individual *susceptibility.*

If, for example, you are small, frail and female, you may do well to eat extra dairy products in order to boost your level of calcium.

It is also worth remembering that enjoying food is important. Some experts even think the health benefits from *the release of endorphins* — brain chemicals which make you feel happy — which comes from eating an occasional nice-but-naughty snack may *outweigh the* bad effect of the sugar-laden fat in the treat itself.

So the simple rules for eating are: eat less; eat fresh; eat roughage; eat less fat, less sugar and more fish and more grains. Plus, of course, eat a little of what you fancy. That way, with a little luck, you too will live to be as old as granny.

RITA CARTER

ANTI-AGEING PILL

SEVERAL substances are currently undergoing trials to see if any of them will provide an anti-ageing potion:

☐ *Pimagedine*
When glucose comes into contact with the protein in our cells it triggers a reaction which effectively "cooks" our tissues, causing them to become stiff and cloudy. This causes cataracts and is also partly responsible for age-related joint stiffening. Pimagedine prevents this reaction *from taking place.*

☐ *Phenylbutyl nitrone*
This is a molecule which halts destructive free radicals in their tracks. Research has shown that it helps to protect *against strokes and age-relat*ed brain deterioration. It is hoped that PBN may provide a treatment for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.

☐ *Dehydroepiandrosterone*
This is a hormone which peaks at the age of 30 then decreases with age. In laboratory animals it appears to prevent obsesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, and to combat age-related immune function disorders.

☐ *Superoxide dismutase*
This is a protein which protects cell walls from damage by oxidisation. It is currently being tested by surgeons to see if it can reduce damage done by air to exposed body tissues during lengthy operations.

HEALTH OFFER

£80,000 worth of free health club memberships to be won in our prize draw
Page 8

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TELEGRAPH COL LIBRARY

Architect gets back to the drawing board

A new drug is reducing the severe pain of bone cancer

President Mitterrand died after a prolonged battle against cancer of the prostate. In many Western countries, this is already the second most common cancer to cause death in men — and a recent report suggested that, in the next 20 years, its incidence would double.

In Mitterrand's case, as usually happens with cancer of the prostate, the tumour spread to his bones. The pain from cancer of the bone in these cases is usually treated initially with hormonal therapy and/or direct radiotherapy, which shrivels the tumours. In the past, the pain has often proved intractable once radiotherapy and hormonal treatment have lost their power. Narcotics, although helpful, are not as effective as they are in many other cancers.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Yet the news is not all gloomy. Early diagnosis of cancer of the prostate has become easier since the introduction of the PSA (prostatic specific antigen) blood test, which helps doctors to distinguish benign from malignant enlargement of the gland. Treatment is improving, and now Metastron — strontium 89 chloride, a radiotracer — is being marketed for the relief of bone pain once it is no longer controlled by other means.

Metastron has the advantage of reaching all the bony deposits, as it is not always possible to give localised radiotherapy to each one. It is administered in outpatients departments as a single intravenous infusion, and the patient notices few if any side-effects.

At present, Metastron is prescribed for the relief of pain only at a late stage of disease, when the tumour has escaped from hormonal control. Used in this way, the drug seems to have had no statistical effect on long-term survival — but its injection, as well as relieving pain in existing bony tumours, does result in a striking reduction in the number of new sites where pain might develop, and thereby improves quality of life.

One 50-year-old architect is very grateful for the advent of Metastron. He was suffering severe pain from prostatic cancer which had spread to his skull and spine. It was so bad that he could no longer sit at his desk or dining-room table, or in his car. Around the house he was confined to a wheelchair, he could be transported to hospital only by ambulance, had not been to work for months and had lost his appetite. Fifteen months after his single treatment he is free from pain, looks plump, is back at work and, amazingly, has resumed his morning PT. His PSA has fallen from 140.8 to 0.02 units.

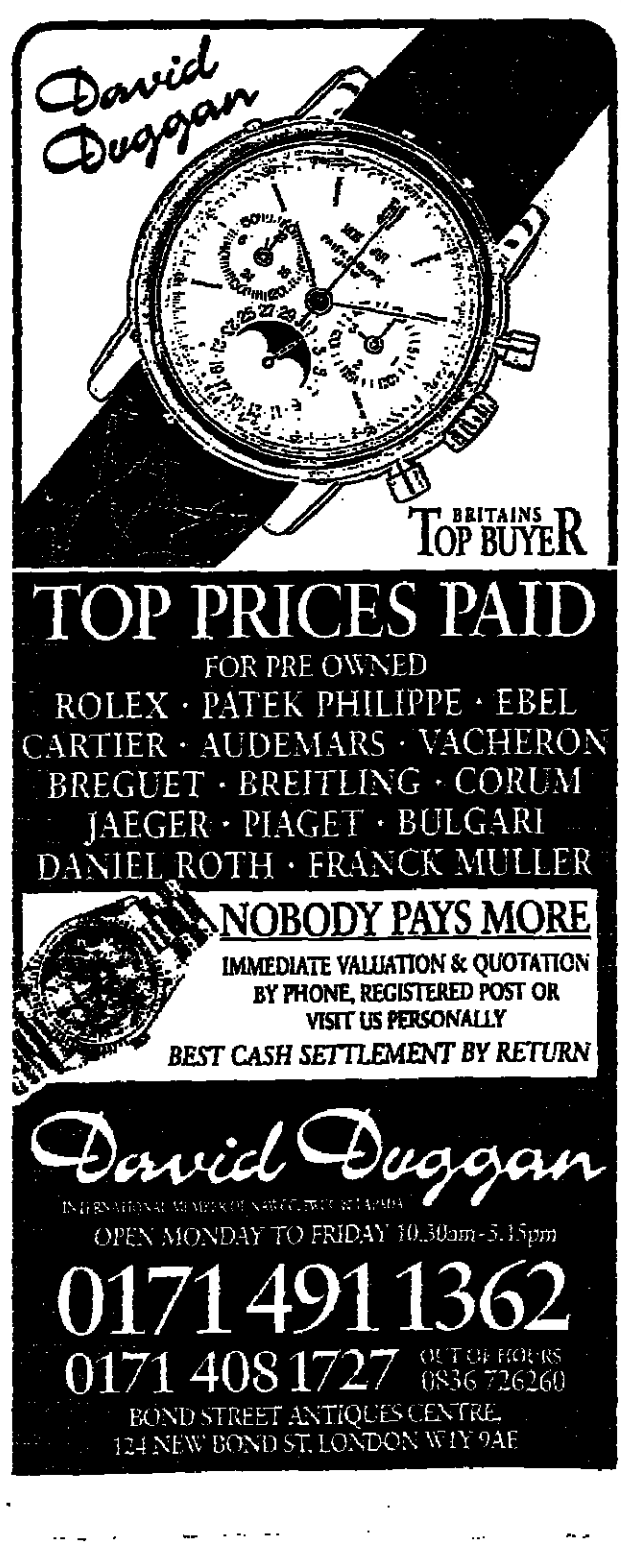
Few patients can expect to respond quite so dramatically to Metastron, but 20 per cent with painful bony secondary tumours will lose all their pain, abandon their powerful painkillers and be able to return to work. Another 60 per cent will obtain some relief, but in 20 per cent of cases there is disappointingly no response.

Effective pain relief from each injection lasts for six months on average, but treatment can be repeated at quarterly intervals if necessary.

In Britain Metastron, manufactured by Amersham Health Care and distributed by Zenica (formerly ICI), is licensed only for use in cases of advanced cancer of the prostate — but enough patients have responded in the same way as the architect to warrant research into its use earlier in the course of the disease. Trials are now being carried out to test Metastron's value if given immediately after diagnosis, or if the PSA starts to rise after treatment.

In America, the Food and Drug Administration has given approval for the use of Metastron for the relief of pain in all cases of bony cancer. A recent report from Amersham Health Care shows that in the US, 30 per cent of the Metastron imported is used to treat advanced breast cancer, and that it is also frequently prescribed for patients with myeloma.

In Britain, if specialist doctors want to give Metastron to patients who are suffering from forms of cancer other than prostatic tumours, they can do so if they make special arrangements with the authorities.



David Duggan

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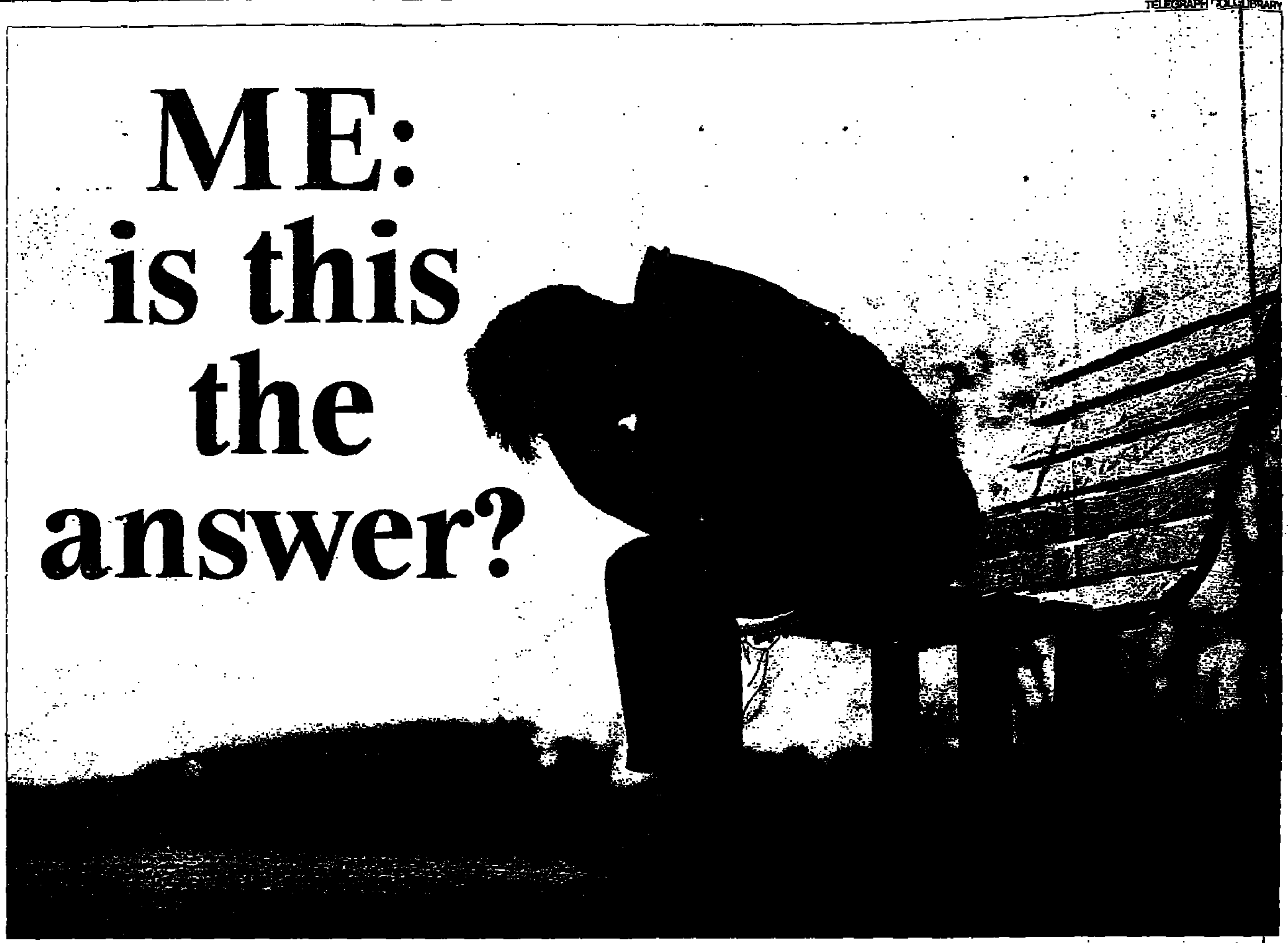


ME: is this the answer?

The space programme showed that enforced inactivity causes drastic changes to muscle and bone, as well as increasing depression. Now more active treatment is recommended

Sufferers from ME are usually ordered to do nothing but rest. **Dr Simon Wessely** describes an alternative showing good results

MYALGIC encephalomyelitis (ME), or chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) as we should now call it, is usually characterised as controversial, difficult to diagnose, debilitating and difficult to treat. The first three are true, but reports that sufferers have little to look forward to other than years of disability are happily being contradicted. At last doctors can report promising treatment.

Turn to any medical textbook and, if they mention CFS at all, it will be with such phrases as "symptomatic management" or "supportive treatment" — medical euphemisms for nothing much to be done. Turn to the popular literature and you will usually also find nothing or, to be more precise, injunctions to do nothing. I was recently sent an American book that advertised itself as the *Official Handbook of the CFS Network*. It contained a section called "Rest, rest and more rest", and introduced something known as "Aggressive rest therapy". Nowadays few British self-help guides would go that far, but rest remains at the centre of advice given to sufferers.

Unfortunately, like any other treatment, rest is not without its side-effects. Since the days of the space programme scientists have documented the drastic changes that happen to muscle, bone and heart from enforced rest — muscles can alter their biochemistry and metabolism within hours of enforced inactivity. The psychological consequences are as profound — frustration, fear, demoralisation and depression. About 50 per cent of the CFS patients we see in our specialist clinic are depressed — I am sometimes surprised it is not more.

Sufferers are told so emphatically to rest because in the short term rest works — it reduces symptoms. The cost is long-term problems. Too often we see people in whom overzealous advice to rest has turned what might have been a self-limiting illness into a long battle with disability.

But this week's *British Medical Journal* brings some hope. Researchers in the Departments of Medicine and Psychiatry at Oxford University have published a randomised controlled trial of a structured rehabilitation programme for CFS. One year later 73 per cent of those receiving the active treatment had done well, with the attainment of near normal functioning, compared with only 23 per cent of those receiving standard medical care.

Rest can reduce symptoms — but only in the short term

The treatment (called cognitive behaviour therapy) is based on a very simple idea — that regardless of what starts an illness, which in this case might be glandular fever, stress or an unknown cause, something else may be the reason why people fail to recover. It is also pragmatic — therapist and patient work together in experiments to see what actually helps.

This is not the first time cognitive behaviour therapy has been used to treat CFS, but Dr Michael Sharpe and his Oxford team have provided a randomised controlled trial. It is not a flash in the pan either — at King's College Hospital my colleagues and I have also completed a controlled trial of the same treatment with equally promising results.

The treatment begins with an interview which may last up to three hours with each patient. The doctor takes a full history, listening carefully and providing sensible explanations. Often it is the first time that the patient's condition has been taken seriously, and it is an essential part of building confidence.

The next stage is to try to introduce some predictability and consistency into sufferers' lives. Nearly everyone that I see with chronic fatigue has adopted their own particular method of coping with the illness. They tend to rest for a few hours or days, in the belief that this saves up energy (unfortunately energy is not a commodity that can be rationed in this manner). This is followed by a burst of activity, often out of frustration more than anything else. This leads to a period of exhaustion, necessitating more days or even weeks of rest, until another burst is attempted.

Sufferers can remain in this state, yo-yoing from too much to too little activity, for years. The treatment offers a way out by balancing activity and rest. No more doing too much, so no need to do too little either. Only then, when the sufferer feels comfortable, is it time to start a programme of cautious, planned increases in activity, spread over weeks and months. It is also important to consider the psychological side of the illness — are there emotional factors such as fear or depression which need treatment?

This is not a panacea or miracle cure, and it doesn't work for everyone. But it does offer a realistic and safe method of improving the quality of life and starting sufferers on the road back to health.

The *BMJ* report concludes that the results do not tell us the cause of CFS, but instead indicate that disability in patients with the condition is not fixed, and that a return to relatively normal functioning is possible for the majority.

Given the controversial nature of chronic fatigue syndrome, not everyone will welcome this news. Those doctors who don't believe it exists will see this as much ado about nothing. From the opposite side some activists will view it as a thinly disguised way of saying CFS is "all in the mind". Both views, curiously alike in their denigration of any illness or treatment that needs more complex explanations than a simple virus, are ill-informed and unhelpful.

It would be encouraging to think that such prejudices will be overcome by the evidence of two randomised trials.

● *Dr Simon Wessely is director of the CFS Research Unit at King's College Hospital. Patients wishing to be seen at the unit need an NHS referral.*

CASE STUDY

Susan was a 24-year-old librarian referred by her GP with a four-year history of severe physical and mental fatigue after glandular fever. She had been unable to work for the past year, and was now living with her parents. She spent most of the day resting on or in bed, or watching television. She found it difficult to concentrate, and had little in the way of social life. Although she was previously "sporty", this was now impossible.

Her sleep was poor, and rarely refreshing. She usually needed to "catch up" by sleeping late in the morning and taking naps in the afternoon. She was exhausted by minimal exertion — activities such as washing her hair, sitting up in a chair, holding a cup or talking to her family. She occasionally had "good days" when she would visit her friends or go to the shops, but always paid for such bursts of activity with an increase in fatigue and muscle pain.

She paid for bursts of activity with an increase in pain

She was willing to attempt a cognitive behavioural approach, but admitted she had little confidence in it, since after repeated, unsuccessful attempts to resume a normal life, she felt frustrated and demoralised, and believed she would have to resign herself to living within strict limits.

The initial set of targets agreed with Susan and her parents included walk around the garden unai for two minutes three ti a day, standing up to m herself a hot drink f times a day, and chattin a friend on the telephone ten minutes daily. We as her to get up at 10.30am, not to nap during the This proved very difficu first, but after three or weeks she noticed an provement in the qualit her sleep at night. Desp slow start she made incr ingly good progress as weeks went. We warned that she m still experie some m aches after a ty, but that would disap

By the tim tive treatm ended she going out i evening t weekly, pr ing her lunch every studying French for hour a day and swim twice a week. She was walking a quarter of a to the local library day.

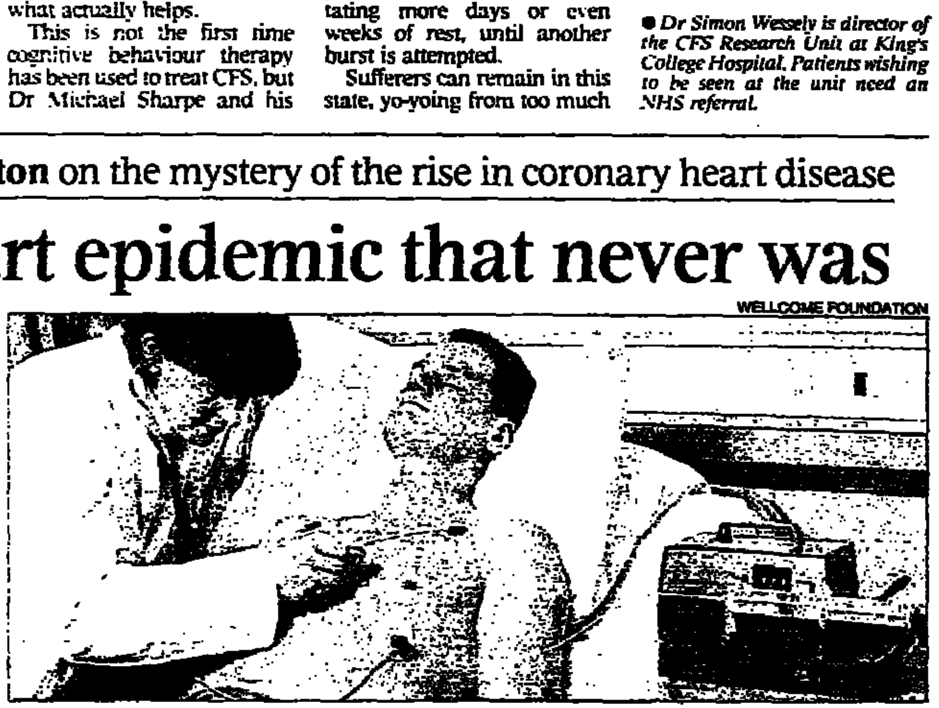
Her fatigue had red although it never went completely. She was more optimistic about future, and was more c dent that she would be to manage her sympton

She was followed up further six months, du which time she continue carry out a self-dir treatment programme year later she had left h and was studying mo languages at college.

Dr Bruce Charlton on the mystery of the rise in coronary heart disease

The heart epidemic that never was

EVERYBODY knows that there has been an epidemic of coronary heart disease (CHD) in Britain and other Western countries. Hardly diagnosed at the beginning of the century, heart disease is the commonest cause of death.



WELLCOME FOUNDATION

Checking heart rate: did health improvements cause the rise in strokes and coronaries?

Most true epidemics are the result of exposure to a new environmental hazard such as an infectious disease or a toxin. But despite vast research efforts, nothing convincing has ever emerged to explain either the rise of heart disease or its current rapid decline.

But what if there never was an epidemic? What if the rise in CHD were due not to a new health hazard, but to the removal of old ones? This is what William Stehbens, Professor of Pathology from Wellington, New Zealand, claims in an article in the latest issue of *Medical Hypotheses*.

As befits a pathologist, Professor Stehbens subjects the evidence to rigorous post-mortem analysis. It is difficult to establish the reality of even a contemporary, supposed acute epidemic (such as meningitis or asthma), because of problems with unreliable data collection, changes in diagnostic sensitivity and public awareness, and advances in clinical and laboratory practice. When such difficulties are spread over many years, he argues that the sources of inaccuracy multiply and render data virtually useless.

And most of the evidence to suggest a CHD epidemic comes from death certificates, a source of data with a poor reputation for quality. Indeed, Professor Alvan Feinstein of Yale University has called for an end to such research, declaring the results to be merely "processed garbage".

But it still remains to explain the fact that CHD mortality rose throughout the century. If it was not an epidemic, then what was the cause? Professor Stehbens suggests that the increased mortality rate from CHD was actually a consequence of health improvements. More people now live to an age where hardening of the arteries becomes a problem — leading to a great likelihood of heart attacks and strokes. And since the introduction of antibiotics fewer people die of infectious disease, so that deaths from other causes (including CHD) were almost bound to increase.

So there never was an "epidemic" of CHD, and the apparent risk of dying from a heart attack went up only because the risk of getting other diseases went down. Whether this is sufficient to explain the whole CHD epidemic is uncertain — it may imply that the rise was real but smaller than believed.

But Professor Stehbens shows the extreme difficulty of understanding historical trends in disease. Claims of long-term changes in mortality are frequently rhetoric rather than reportage.

● *Dr Bruce Charlton is a lecturer in epidemiology and public health at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne.*

INSIDE SECTION 2

Thirty years of sleaze: A new BBC TV drama series looks at the seamier side of British public life
Page 33

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MOPS

Why home-school contracts will fail our children

Parents could soon have to sign agreements to ensure their children attend school and do homework. But there is a serious flaw, says **Nigella Lawson**

The most blistering attack the Conservatives have been abl to make on Labou arty policy until now is tha a) it doesn't exist, or (b) it i tolen from them. The obv ously cackhanded disagre nent about which is the mor convincing line to take tell one something in itself. On should, really, be able to tel the difference and would ce tainly be better advised, if no, to pretend one could.

Now John Major, having seen how successful Tony Blair has been with strategy (b), has decided to plump for a bit of cross-party policy-pinc ng himself. Some time ago, he Labour Party proposed a orm of home-school contract, y which parents would agree o do their bit to ensure their hildren's attendance at school nd make sure they completed he work set for them at home.

Now the Tories ave hazily let it be nown that, under heir plans, parents will be obliged to gn formal con acts with the ead teacher of heir child's school.

Officially, not nuch more has ben said about hese contracts in heir Conservative nanifestation, but is not that alone which makes me conclude that hat we are seeing here is the ercising of option (a).

It is not that contracts aren't great idea. Most people — many head teachers among em — are convinced that ntracts are a Good Thing. arents must take responsi lity for their children's con uct — which is not necessar y the same thing as taking e blame — and be willing to cept that they do have a role play in ensuring their hildren turn up for school, do e work the school set them nd abide by the rules, not just f school, but of society. Par nts bring their children into he world and have a duty to quip them for it as best they an. Teachers are there to each class, but parents are here to teach something even more far-reaching.

But the only sort of contract that can work is, in effect, a verbal one, the sort Sam Goldwyn described as not worth the paper it's written on. Sounds emanating from No 10 suggest that something a little more stringent is desirable: Mr Major would appear to want a formal contract to be offered by schools and signed by parents as a condition for admission to them.

Thus, the whole idea is rendered null and void. It won't work. It can't work. Local authorities are under an obligation to educate the children in their constituency and that obligation cannot be waived simply because parents won't sign a piece of paper promising to oversee Junior's homework. If we are beginning to say that children of negligent parents don't deserve to be educated, then why are we even pretending to have a universal state education system? Although, come to think of it, we are not pretending very hard at the moment.

All private day-schools issue a contract to parents in one shape or form, although more often than not the only signatures required are scrawled parental initials to confirm nightly that the required amount of homework-time has been spent. For the rest, the obligations of the child and the parent are made clear on admission. And it all works beautifully.

> 'State schools can't just expel pupils they don't like'

Now, I can see the point of trying to make the population as a whole emulate the anxious pushiness of the middle-class parent. Or rather, I can see why the effect this would have might seem attractive, but the considerations are rather different. And, quite apart from anything else, the difference between a fee-paying school and a state one is that a private school can refuse entry or later eject anyone it doesn't wish to include among its number. A state school cannot just expel a pupil and, if it could, it wouldn't change anything.

The flaw in the Major version of the home-school contract is that the only effect that removing "undesirable" pupils from certain schools would have would be, momentarily, to improve the averages at that particular school.

For a man so fond of league tables and charters, I can see the attraction. But, in fact, all this drawing up of contracts by the chartering classes so far has not, for example, stopped your train running late or ensured you get your hip operation in time. All it has done is provide a conduit for your discontent.

If a child whose parents will not comply is removed from one school, then another school must take him or her. The idea that all state schools can be turned into St Paul's just by getting rid of those with bad performances or poor attitudes (or those of their parents) is ludicrous — and irresponsible. All it does is shunt the problem along. Expelled children have to go *somewhere*, and the one place you don't want them is on the streets.

Mr Blair's proposal for some sort of avowal of good faith on the part of parents, in exchange for a declaration of duties by the teachers, is obviously right in principle, but beyond that one wonders whether it will have any effect whatsoever. That is to say, those parents who are in agreement are probably doing their bit already, and those who don't care are not going to be turned into Ma and Pa Walton at the Labour leader's request.

It is difficult: a contract with no binding implications is not really a contract, but one that is made statutory is as impossible as it is undesirable. Rightly, we tend to think that it is the province of tinpot dictators to go about creating ever-new categories of criminal. And the idea of forcing parents to police their children as they themselves are being policed by the State is ridiculous and rebarbative. But still, I do think on balance it is probably better to state out loud what one thinks everyone's rights and duties are, and what they entail.

The real difficulty, and this is something that no politician, whether red or blue — or, as it might be, pink or grey — could broach, is that the whole ethos of this country is anti-intellectual, and by extension suspicious of education. I spoke above of middle-class anxieties about educational standards, but only among the English is a desire for educational attainment so peculiarly thought of as middle-class ponciness. The poorest immigrant family will urge their children to study in school and study at home. And school results bear this out. Only the English will, as a point of pride, disdain all efforts to improve oneself as swank or pretension. Interestingly, the Scottish are not like that: perhaps that is the key to Mr Blair's strength.

That apart, if Mr Major really thinks that the solution lies with a contract, then perhaps he should consider taking out the other sort of contract. The only quick way to get rid of problem pupils once and for all would be to issue all head teachers with machineguns and get them to round up the difficult and undesirable pupils in the playground at break and take them out.

ADRIAN BROOKS

Will parents have to sign a contract before their children can attend school? And what happens to those who won't?

When ethnic origins cause mental problems

Quentin Letts on the official recognition of cultural ailments

It is official: Latins are excitable, West Indians are prone to inaction, and Malays tend to run amok. The American Psychiatric Association (APA) has for the first time notified its members that people of different cultural backgrounds can have different mental problems.

In a new set of guidelines, the association has stated that mental-health experts should in future consider patients' cultural and ethnic origins before diagnosis or treatment. The news, unpalatable as it might be to America's melting-pot race theorists, is a triumph for a New York psychiatrist who has long campaigned for cultural diagnosis.

Dr Juan Mezzich, 49, works at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, but was born and bred in Peru. His origins have given him a sympathy for the sort of psychiatric wobbles that can afflict people of strong cultural identities, even when living in the West. For South America is the land of *susto* (soul loss) and *ataque de nervios* (attack of the nerves), when unhappiness and sickness are caused by true or imaginary terrors.

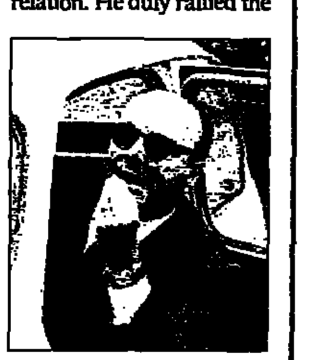
To the Western-trained clinician these illnesses may sound like bunkum. But they are to be taken seriously. A list of cultural syndromes has appeared in the latest *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, published by the APA.

It reads not unlike the notebook of a Victorian explorer. Listed are such mental ailments as Malaysian koro (the sexual organ, because of intense anxiety, will recede into the body and possibly cause death) and West African brain fag (mental fatigue, leading to blurred vision and depression). Even the Japanese, often perceived as cool to the point of impermeability, have a cultural syndrome, *taijin kyofusho*, which is effectively a dread of embarrassment.

Dr Mezzich, who chairs the cultural diagnosis committee of America's National Institute of Mental Health, argues that there is nothing racist in the description of such illnesses. "It is simply that culture informs disorders," he says.

In the US and other Western countries, for instance, cultural diagnostic experts point to anorexia nervosa, or identity disorders. These can be ascribed to the West's emphasis on personal image. To treat these illnesses you must understand the culture, say the experts.

Recommended treatment involves surrounding the patient with family or members of the same ethnic origins, who will understand what the patient is going through. Dr Mezzich took this course with a South American patient suffering from *susto* after the death of a favourite uncle. Dr Mezzich realised that in her culture it was traditional for group mourning to be held on the death of a close friend or relation. He duly rallied the woman's family. A wake was held and within days the woman was on the road to recovery.



Latins tend to excitability

How about the British? "In London, you are likely to have cultural syndromes as much as in a city like New York," says Dr Mezzich. British phlegm may present its own problems, but we have nothing as spectacular as, for example, the Chinese *shen-k'uei* ("life-threatening" loss of semen, caused by anxiety). However, "these illnesses occur not only in distant lands," says Dr Mezzich. "They are also here in the suburbs."

And those Malays? The old staff style-book of one national newspaper, in an effort to cut cliché-mongering, used to instruct rookie reporters that "only Malays can run amok". The association's manual takes a different line. The Malays are prone to "a period of brooding followed by an outburst of aggressive or homicidal behaviour". But it adds that the syndrome is also detected in the denizens of Laos, the Philippines, Polynesia, Papua New Guinea, Puerto Rico and among the Navajo Indians. There is a lot of it about.

They schmooze, therefore they are

Giles Coren in search of a new social group: the schmooseoisie

AFTER THE Yuppies and the Nimbys, the Dwins, Wasps, and Simpkins, you might have thought we had had all the American social classifications we could handle. However, we are about to witness the ascendancy not of a mere group, but of a new class, one of which Karl Marx never dreamt: the *schmooseoisie*.

They are with us already, and you know them: Angus Deayton, Clive Anderson, Wogan, Aspel, Tony Blair, Melvyn Bragg, anyone who appears on *This Morning*. For them, to schmooze is to live.

"The schmooseoisie is a rapidly expanding class which makes its living by talk, on radio or television," says Anne Soukhanov, executive editor of the *American Heritage Dictionary*, who legitimised the word in her book of new coinages, *Word Watch*, published in America last year.

"It was coined in the *Boston Globe* in 1992, by a Professor of English called Paul Lewis," she says. "The US media caught on and it is now common currency." It is already beginning to take hold in Britain. So what does it mean?

There is a problem with translation, in that it is a mongrel portmanteau word drawn from Yiddish-American slang and French. Schmooze cannot adequately be rendered as gossip (with a hint of "buttering up") any more than schlep, or schmaltz, or shtick can be expressed concisely in English.

Nor are there set rules on spelling — schmoos, schmooz, schmuss, schmoose are all equally admissible. It suggests talking because you think you are good at it, think it might be advantageous to you, and have nothing better to do. For the schmooseoisie, it is the locus of power.

"A huge sector of middle-class Americans is fixated with talking," says Ms Soukhanov. "Newstalk radio is the most popular kind of show, Oprah is the schmooze queen, and the Government is all schmooseiocrats, taking trillions and giving back talk. Gore and Clinton schmooze, Reagan never did."

Edwina Currie and Angus Deayton

The same model can be applied in Britain. Tony Blair is schmooseoisie, but the Prime Minister is not. Largely because Blair, like Clinton, is capable of doing it. Major, like Reagan, is not.

And there is a hierarchy. At the top are the schmooseiocrats, the politicians always ready to chat on television: John Prescott, Teresa Gorman, Edwina Currie, John Redwood. Then the chat monarchs: Frost, Wogan, Aspel, Bragg, Rantzen, Anderson. And, of course, Angus Deayton, whose show might as well be called *Have I Got Schmooze For You?*.

The rank below takes in habitual "guests" — Peter Stringfellow, Willie Rushton, Rabbi Hugo Grinn, Fiona Fullerton — and lesser chat gurus: Loyd Grossman, Kilroy, and Anne Robinson. Below them are the phone-in addicts.

Ms Soukhanov also offers a name I would not dare propose. "The Princess of Wales has joined your schmooseoisie. She used talk to try to improve her position. And Charles did the same."

And yet the schmooseiocracy is nothing new. Think of *King Lear*. Did not Goneril and Regan schmooze their way to a share of the kingdom while Cordelia stood silent and relinquished Britain to the dark clutches of the schmooseoisie?

In a classless society, with a fragile monarchy, we are entering an age when one's rank in the schmooseiocracy is all-important. Beware the tragedy of King Melvyn.

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Mitterrand, the French Machiavelli

Charles Bremner on the illusionist who bewitched France

Searching for the measure of François Mitterrand yesterday, French television made much of a remark by Baroness Thatcher. The woman whom the former French President once defined as a blend of Caligula and Marilyn Monroe was quoted as calling him one of the few men who had never betrayed her. For all their duelling over Europe, she has never forgotten a Saturday in 1982 when the Socialist President brushed aside the advisers who wanted to make capital with the Third World and sided with London rather than Argentina over the Falklands.

That act was deemed a betrayal by much of the French Left, the force which Mitterrand had harnessed to carry him to power. But betrayal — or, as he preferred to call it, the art of the unexpected — was Mitterrand's hallmark throughout half a century in or around high office.

The boy from a provincial Roman Catholic bourgeois family insisted in his dying days that he had stayed faithful to the humanist ideals of his youth, but his journey led him through giddy shifts of allegiance which bewildered followers while earning respect for his deviousness.

The list of desertions was long, from the service to both Vichy France and the Resistance to the intrigues of the Fourth Republic, which he served as a centrist minister, through to the Socialist cause itself. Most of those left by the wayside, from former prime ministers to his multitude of feminine conquests, nursed their bitterness in private. A few went public, notably the two lieutenants who in the past three years have chosen to prove their chagrin through suicide: Pierre Bérégovoy, the last Socialist Prime Minister, and François de Grossouvre, his one-time palace fixer. It was de Grossouvre's death in the Elysée Palace two years ago which most spoke for the sulphur and decay that stained the closing months of the presidency.

Many outside France marvelled at how after being disgraced for faking a murder attempt against himself in 1959, Mitterrand came back in the 1970s to win the affection of the country and be twice elected to the seven-year presidency. His power sprang from two sources. He was an extraordinary *seducteur*, a mixture of intellect and charm which could silence adversaries. And he was a master tactician and a political killer who enjoyed nothing better than dispatching his rivals and even allies.

The rough and tumble of an Anglo-Saxon political life would have trimmed Mitterrand's Bonapartist tendencies, but a presidential system requires a leader to cultivate his mystique. The solitary *Florentin* (as he was known in deference to his Machiavellian wiles) could convey the pomp of power while keeping an ironic distance. He would flatter by seeming to take one into his confidence, musing in his acid and literary way on the vagaries of life and politics. "Of course it is only power that matters," he said late one night in 1982. "You can do nothing without it. That's why I admire Thatcher."

Even in his final year, stricken with cancer, he could not resist the impulse to win over his compatriots with wry commentaries on his imminent death. We are all passengers on an airliner (he would say), happily sipping the champagne in the certain knowledge we are flying into a mountain. His performances won much admiration.

The showman President made his supporters swallow a lot over the years, sometimes to the benefit of his country and the world beyond. It is hard, in these post-communist days, to recall the exultation on the Left that greeted the Mitterrand victory of May 10, 1981. For the generation of 1968, the teachers and civil service workers and the unions, the triumph was less an election than a revolution against a hated *ancien régime*. Thousands were busy packing their money off to Switzerland on the day that Mitterrand launched his rule with a pilgrimage to the leftist saints in the Panthéon. Yet within two years, he had strangled the Communist Party, Moscow's loyal ally, thrown the Socialist economic programme into reverse and sided with President Reagan against Moscow, appealing in the Bundestag for West Germany to accept American missiles on its territory. He also proved that the Fifth Republic was a truly stable democracy where the parties alternated in power.

He has left the political dirty work to others

It was one of the Mitterrand paradoxes that this bookish President used the Gaullist system which he had once reviled as a "permanent *coup d'état*", to assume a grandeur that outshone the General. President Chirac's attempts to strike a *Gaullien* pose are like a schoolboy's effort by comparison.

François Mitterrand said often enough that he wanted to go down in history as the builder of the new Europe of Maastricht, along with his friend, Helmut Kohl. Failing that, he made sure he would be remembered as the architect of the new Paris, by doing more to change the city's skyline than anyone since Napoleon III. Yet expensive monumental architecture is the only real cultural legacy of a President who devoted himself to the arts.

The dust has not even begun to settle after 14 years of *Mitterrandisme*, but the historians may not be so generous as the old man's supporters. Their eulogies yesterday spoke of him as a "giant" and a "statesman". His critics might reply that Mitterrand nursed illusions about France's destiny and allowed it to live beyond its means. He left to Chirac, his Gaullist successor, the dirty work that is necessary to fulfil the late President's vision of a peaceful and *communautaire* France.

Top Cs, but no tiaras

The Royal Opera should use its exile to make converts across the country

Libby Purves

To borrow for a moment the format of an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting or detox centre: my name is Elizabeth. I am 45 years old and I have a Royal Opera House habit.

I know it is not rational. I have tried to kick it. I know it does untold harm to my prosperity, street credibility and (given the ventilation problem) my body thermostat. As each subscription spree comes to an end I resolve to turn away from the rococo gilding and dodgy plumbing, the loomingly pompous red velvet curtains, the rising reek of wealth from the orchestra stalls and the seedy insistent beckoning of that amphitheatre side door on Floral Street. But every time the pushers get me back. They send me glossy brochures with covers showing oil-painted cellos and fruit and pediments. I open them and before I know where I am another vast wad of banknotes has changed hands and I am down for several hits of forgotten Verdi, a line of *Götterdämmerung* and a snort of *Così fan tutte*.

Like all party drugs, opera is variable in quality and unreliable in supply: sometimes it leaves me as elevated as I hoped or more so — emotionally stretched, opened up to feelings nobler and more mysterious than common life can bring. At other times (such as the magnificently mad *King Arthur* with wind-up flowers and trampolining haymakers, and four hours of uncut heroic couplets) it threatens to extinguish all vital signs forever. But addicts are an easy market. You know how it is.

You must do, because were you not a fellow-operaholic or perhaps a ballet junkie, the words "Royal Opera House" would long ago have sent you fleeing to the Letters Page. We who stubbornly adore the place and the art find ourselves in the position of a girl with an unpopular boyfriend: we waste hours saying "No, honestly, plenty of ordinary people go, it's not all corporate-entertainment fat cats and foreigners, not at all," or just "You should try it, really, it's thrilling." Friends shrug coldly: some reject the medium of opera altogether as absurd and elitist; others shudder fastidiously and stalk off to some gritty alternative venue for a politically correct *Aida* set in 1920s Chicago or some such tomfoolery.

The shrugs have intensified since the House got its £55 million Lottery grant to knock down a mixed neighbourhood, abuse the Floral Hall and build a curious Center-Parcs-type structure with portholes and an 85ft escalator. In short, the ROH may have a fine coterie of grand and wealthy friends but elsewhere it loses goodwill daily. The word is that the BBC documentaries starting next week will accelerate the process.

When the Opera House lost the prospect of a temporary theatre near Tower Bridge to cover the 1997-99 renovation of its home, there was no popular cry of protest. When, last weekend, its technical director talked of recession, cut budgets and disappearing sponsors, and other "insiders" warned that this cash and logistical crisis might close it down altogether for a spell, it was hard to find anyone in the street who was even faintly perturbed.

Which is a shame. For a great opera house and company is a national treasure. Its existence leads, inspires and feeds all the others, down to the newest and smallest regional outfit and beyond them to the amateurs. It is the gold standard, the heart of the art. The ROH orchestra, singers, dancers, conductors, directors, repetiteurs, scenery and costume teams must not be dispersed by mere homelessness.

At the moment, the idea seems to be that they will tour, putting on productions on much the same scale as at present. Keith Cooper, director of public affairs, told a newspaper at the weekend that the managers are "working out another kind of existence that is within our control. The option of closing would mean high redundancy and start-up costs. The board and management have committed themselves to keeping the show on the road". Pressed on the difficulty of getting the Pavarottis and Domingos, he firmly said: "Big stars will be contracted as they normally are . . . they know where places like Manchester and Birmingham are."

More of the same, then, only less so? There is a depressing doggedness about the idea. But suddenly it dawned on me that there is something else the Royal Opera House could do: it could turn its homelessness into something glorious. It could use its two years of exile not to cobble together ill-tempered productions with haughty imported stars in theatres where it is not comfortable, but to diffuse itself, reach out its iridescent tentacles into every corner of our national life. It could dance gladly from its brick prison and teach under a tree: go out in small bands to make friends, followers and converts.

After all, when you are reading your £3.50 red glossy programme in the crush bar queue and grow tired of trying to decide whether Aroldo is Montecassino's brother-in-law disguised as Beppino or what, you will find a page marked "Aims and Aspirations"; which includes not only the presentation of high-quality opera and ballet but a commitment "to provide the widest possible access . . . to extend public understanding . . . to extend audiences". On the next page, "Outreach and Access", there is a modest account of what the education department does with schools, courses, hospitals, and so on. You will sense from this that although its decade of work is bragged about in the programme, the education department is still the untransfigured Cinderella of the outfit. You can also work out without much difficulty that the "100 events to inform and entertain Friends of Covent Garden" are not reaching out very far or very strenuously. The well-bred ladies who decorously queue for a backstage tour or a lunchtime *Traviata* singalong (done that too) are not exactly a hard catch.

But freed from the arduous business of manning an opera house night after night, why should the whole burning talent of the company not concentrate — just for those two years and in between occasional grand performances in major cities — on reaching out more and more? Use some Lottery money to buy a fleet of minibuses — *Nessun Dormobiles* perhaps — in which posses of musicians, singers, dancers, designers and directors could descend on every remote rural community school, scabrous inner-city hall and suburban golf club. Children, pensioners, youth clubs and weary commuters could be swept up in a craze of DIY opera; enthused, amused, educated, inspired.

It would work: not only because it is proven that if offered the great tunes, the veriest oaf will gladly hum them. It will work because it always does. I have spent magical days watching ROH director Richard Gregson and his colleagues make children whose horizon had been bounded by Michael Jackson perform short operas; the emotional force of music-drama held even the hardest cases in thrall through a ten-hour day. I have taken part in *La traviata* during one of the lamentably rare ROH weekend workshops, being shown how a chorus is made to move and flow naturally even while singing the twiddly bits. Around me were serious amateur singers and rank beginners, led by Covent Garden principals and disciplined to an approximation of professional standards.

After such an event, whether in a school or an adult group, everybody glows and hyperventilates with enthusiasm. I had thought before the *Traviata* weekend that the drama would be hopelessly diluted by a gang of amateur singers and a lone piano; but under passionate tutelage we forgot the lack of orchestra or stage, and entered into the essential spirit of the piece, so that ever since I have heard and viewed it infinitely more richly. Most of the participants had never been to the ROH and would have been shy to: but it came to them, and sowed an undying loyalty.

You see what could be done? Just for two years, forget Pavarotti and Domingo and Sharon Sweet, the grand scale and the high budget and the footman with the big bouquet. Let the tail wag the dog, the education department lead. Hit the road, do a hundred small gigs instead of one big one. Bring us nothing but your talent and knowledge and a promise of how wonderful it will be when you go full-scale and full-stage again for the millennium. Go on, I dare you. Try it.

They won't. Far more likely to cut down "outreach" to pay for a series of depressing London theatres and overpriced tenors. But up here in the amphi, out here in the provinces, we can dream.

Staking a claim to power

Frank Field on Tony Blair's big idea for Labour

It is difficult to overestimate th importance of Tony Blair' speech yesterday in Singapore or stakeholder democracy. A nation o stakeholders is clearly going to be the theme that Labour puts to the electorate. It fits in with Tony Blair's wish to see Britain as a young country again. It commits Labour to a new way of rebuilding our political, industrial and welfare institutions.

But is this just another buzzword which will leave very little impression once all the hubbub has died down? Or will it give a new coherence to Labour's programme? And how does it differ from the idea of a property-owning or shareholding democracy?

In one sense, the concept is the child of the early postwar drive towards a property-owning and shareholding democracy. The idea is for a strategy which makes a real difference to the world of welfare, education and of work, as home-owning has made to most people's private lives.

The biggest welfare reform has to be of pensions. How can we make second pensions universal? The only sensible way to advance is to bring in a system of compulsory savings which will be gradually built up over time for those of us who are not currently members of a company or personal pension scheme. But the electorate is unlikely to back the idea of compulsory savings under existing welfare rules. People will rightly want to own their own savings. This leads to the idea of stakeholders' organisations, such as mutual aid funds, which would offer this possibility. Other individuals might wish to invest their savings in existing private companies, but whatever option is chosen, the reform would usher in lifetime savings and pension accounts owned by the individuals themselves. Moreover, the scheme would become universal only if stakeholder status were extended to those outside the labour market. The idea then is for these groups to have their contributions paid by the Exchequer, provided that they fulfil clearly defined conditions.

Over time, compulsory savings would take the pressure off today's unfunded welfare bill. They would also raise the savings ratio and so begin to offer business a new supply of long-term investment savings.

Already, much of Labour's policy is in place and need only be presented in stakeholder terms. The emphasis Tony Blair has given to raising Britain's skill level would be reinforced by the idea of stakeholders' accounts. These would detail a minimum package of education offers from nursery through to university. Individuals need not have access to the latter part of this package while they are teenagers. Rather, the offer would be a lifetime account, which fits easily into the evolution of Labour policy. Individuals might also have access to their lifetime savings and pension accounts, not merely for house deposits, but for training investment as well.

Stakeholding would make a reality of the NHS being our health service — which patently it has not been up to now. With a universalised trust status system, the boards could be elected at the same time as local authorities. This reform would itself open up the possibility of a hypothecated health tax. Such a reform would provide the scheme with a clear money-rationing mechanism to match the service rationing which the Tory reforms have made transparent for the first time.

It is crucial to move away from the present welfare structure, which increasingly depends on means-tested support. The current system feeds both fraud and the dependency culture. Under stakeholders' welfare, self-improvement would again be put at the centre of Labour's policies. A reconstituted National Insurance scheme, with benefits more clearly linked to contributions, would also open the door to a contributor-run organisation. Such a reform would illustrate again that universal services can be provided which are not run by the State.

The public is bored with much of what goes on under the heading of European politics and strategy. Voters feel that Britain is being pulled along behind a Franco-German centralisation exercise. The stakeholder idea offers Britain the chance to break free and set out for Europe a clear alternative. Stakeholding is in essence a policy of decentralisation, creating institutions which members themselves own and which, if they wish, they can themselves run.

It forges a new concept of citizenship. The advance of economic and social citizenship this century has been built on sand. The idea of stakeholding in welfare, health and education seeks to give a reality to the ideal of a Britain in which everyone has invested. It covers people's lifetime needs, not by mouthing terms like "rights" — which have all too often turned out to be empty slogans — but with capital ownership and insurance schemes. The dominant theme of 20th-century Labour politics has been the wish to create an inclusive society in which everybody is a fully paid-up member. The idea of stakeholding offers to make this a reality.

The author is MP for Birkenhead.

Closed Booth

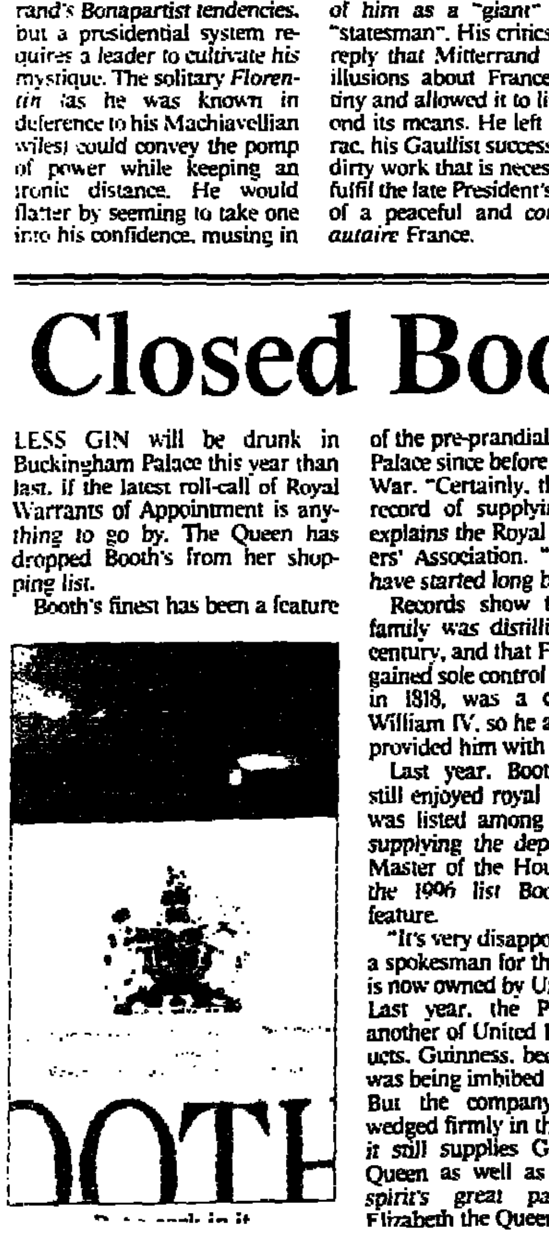
LESS GIN will be drunk in Buckingham Palace this year than last, if the latest roll-call of Royal Warrants of Appointment is anything to go by. The Queen has dropped Booth's from her shopping list.

Booth's finest has been a feature of the pre-prandial chinwag at the Palace since before the First World War. "Certainly, they have had a record of supplying since 1911," explains the Royal Warrant Holders' Association. "And they may have started long before that."

Records show that the Booth family was distilling in the 18th century, and that Felix Booth, who gained sole control of the company in 1818, was a close friend of William IV, so he almost certainly provided him with a cup or two.

Last year, Booth's Distilleries still enjoyed royal patronage, and was listed among the tradesmen supplying the department of the Master of the Household. But in the 1996 list Booth's does not feature.

"It's very disappointing," admits a spokesman for the brand, which is now owned by United Distillers. Last year, the Palace dropped another of United Distillers' products, Guinness, because less stout was being imbibed in court circles. But the company has its toe wedged firmly in the royal door — it still supplies Gordon's to the Queen as well as to one of the spirit's great patrons, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.



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THE TIMES DIARY

● There is considerable relief among ladies who work out at the House of Commons gym, now that the men's showers have been fixed. Until yesterday, regulars including Paddy Ashdown were forced to use the ladies' showers, risking blushes with the possibility of bumping into Edwina Currie.

Out of joint

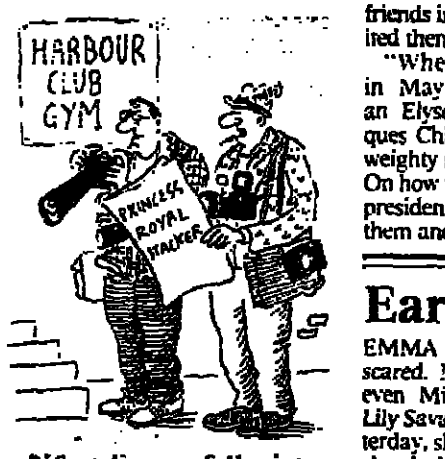
THE PAINTING which had art dealers reaching for the turps when Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber bought it for a record £18 million last year is to go on show this morning at the National Gallery.

It will be the first public unveiling of Picasso's famous work from his Blue Period, *Portrait of Angel Fernández de Soto*, since Lloyd Webber bought it at auction. De Soto is depicted as a confident but ugly dandy with arched eyebrows, jutting chin, twisted mouth and projecting ear. Sir Andrew nevertheless finds it enchanting.

Booked up

THE PRINCE of Wales will be thrilled for his bubbly former assistant private secretary, Belinda Harley, a lady with effusive charm. Despite her association with the highest in the land, she has taken a plunge to join the lower ranks for two days a week at the tabloid *Daily Express* — as literary editor.

Before her two-and-a-half years with the Prince, she spent many years in bookish circles. But court life taught her about literary serialisation — she was at the Prince's side week by revelatory week as Andrew Morton spilt the royal beans in *Diana: Her True Story*.



"It's a disgrace following someone around like that"

Quackers

EVEN the quacking in the gardens behind the Elysée was muted yesterday when news rippled round the pond of the death of the famous duck-lover François Mitterrand. The President held his paddling friends in untold affection, and visited them daily to feed them.

"When he left public office in May of last year," explains an Elysée source, "he gave Jacques Chirac a lecture. Not on the weighty matters of state, of course. On how to care for the ducks in the presidential pond — what to feed them and how to clean the water."

Early riser

EMMA NICHOLSON is running scared. Not from John Major or even Michael Portillo, but from Lily Savage. At the last minute yesterday, she pulled out of a planned chat in bed with the beer-bibbing transvestite and her outrageous wig for *The Big Breakfast*.

Lily Savage: unsuitable

By all accounts, she had agreed initially to appear under the duvet for the Wednesday show, but then realised that this wouldn't suit the image of a defecting Tory MP. After all, when Michael Hutchence was under the covers on the same show being interviewed by Paula Yates, the electricity generated lit up the studio.

P·H·S

FRANCOIS MITTERRAND

A towering figure leaves a perilous legacy

President Mitterrand was by any standard, one of the most influential Europeans of his time. His death, like those of Konrad Adenauer and General de Gaulle, marks the end of a European era. In the case of many men, this would be a dutiful cliché. In the cae of France and M Mitterrand, it is not. For France, it marks a generational break with the Vichy years of which, before joining the Resistance in 1943, M Mitterrand was a decorated servant. M Mitterrand acknowledged his full role in Vichy only in 1994; with his death, France should be freer to look with frankness at the Occupation.

His death may also help the country shed the remnants of a still older political tradition: that of France's 19th-century Third Republic. M Mitterrand is most often associated, and for good cause, with the political opportunism and *salon* deals of the Fourth Republic in which, just under 50 years ago, he launched his ministerial career. But his radical republicanism — the most enduring trait left by a lifetime of shifting political allegiances — owed even more to that earlier era.

Republicanism fired his opposition to the Fifth Republic of de Gaulle, whom he accused of a staging "permanent *coup d'état*"; 19th-century ideas also underpinned his firm belief in a strongly interventionist state. Yet his 14-year tenure in the Elysée is best described as a reign: the aide who once cut short a speech of welcome with the words "The President comes to speak, not to listen", encapsulated an aloofness close to arrogance. It was with the language and the methods of political habits that have served France ill that M Mitterrand summoned Europe to its 21st-century destiny.

It will take time for a new course to be set and for France to recover the health of its political institutions. M Mitterrand so dominated French political life since 1981 that he became like a tree under which nothing grew. No mainstream politician is yet ready to question his master plan for "the construction of Europe", singled out yesterday for praise by his political opponent, President Chirac. He departs, in addition, better respected than he was for much of his political life. No encounter in M Mitterrand's long political career was more carefully prepared than his rendezvous with death yesterday. For four years, he met the pain and certain outcome of a fatal prostate cancer with great courage. His fortitude did much to efface for his countrymen his reputation as "the Florentine", the supreme and sometimes vindictive manipulator.

In one of the ruminative interviews he gave towards the end of his life, he declared that he wished to go down in history as the architect of domestic social peace and European unity. History, if it acknowledges that these were indeed the driving ambitions of this most impenetrable and devious of political actors, will present a stiff reckoning.

He leaves France a somewhat more modern, but certainly more troubled, society than it was in 1981, when he finally claimed the Elysée for the Socialist Party which he had embraced ten years before with the express aim of grooming it for power. He is sometimes credited with narrowing the ideological rift between Right and Left; but against that must be set the growth of support for Jean-Marie Le Pen's xenophobic extreme Right. This winter's turmoil in France has exposed how deep are the boils he has left others to lance.

Their virulence derives in part from the disrepute into which the scandal-ridden closing years of M Mitterrand's presidency brought the country's political establishment. They are also a direct legacy of his repeated refusal when in office to put the considerable authority of the Elysée at the service of those in a long list of prime ministers, of Left as well as Right, who attempted controversial reforms. But the street protests are at least equally relevant to M Mitterrand's larger claim on Fame's attention: the forced march to European Union on which he set out in the early 1980s.

For France, the costs of the *franc fort* policy which was the linchpin of the Mitterrand strategy for European Union are counted today in high unemployment, coupled with a deficit that has been swelled by the efforts of successive governments to cushion the social costs of years of competitive disinflation. His single-minded drive to curb Germany's growing power by enfolding it in France's tight embrace was damaging not just because of the strains it imposed on France. More important is that the destination he set is not one in which either French or Germans, let alone the rest of Europe, can find lasting ease.

THE SELECT FEW

Even a small fast stream can help to improve a school

The news that comprehensive schools will be allowed to increase the proportion of pupils they select from 10 to 15 per cent might be expected to have no more than a trivial effect on state education. But buried in the new circular from the Education Secretary, Gillian Shephard, is a more radical departure: that the 15 per cent may now be selected on the basis of general ability as well as particular talent in music, art, drama, sport, technology or foreign languages. At a stroke, this removes the figleaf that helped politicians to pretend that specialisation in schools had nothing in common with selection.

Labour is all in favour of specialisation, but opposes selection. Yet aptitude in foreign languages or technology is extremely likely to be accompanied by aptitude in other, related academic subjects. And how are schools to choose the gifted linguists or potential engineers except by assessing their ability? This new guidance at last dispels the hypocrisy of claims that a school can specialise without selecting its pupils.

So Labour will have to do some hard thinking. If David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, is sensible, he might cast aside some of the old shibboleths and welcome what his counterpart is trying to do. For, by reserving 15 per cent of places for fast-stream pupils, socially deprived schools may be able to make themselves more attractive to parents, and selection by class in prosperous areas should be lessened.

Pure comprehensive schools admit pupils according to the distance of a child's home from school. Rather than ensuring statistically random admissions, however, this merely leads to selection by house price. Middle-class residential areas produce middle-class schools; council estates are too often served by sink schools. Allowing an element of selection by ability into the middle-class schools would give poorer children an opportunity to attend them. And some inner-city deprived schools might be able to give themselves a boost by turning themselves into the specialist "magnet" schools that have been so successful in America.

Once a school has at least 15 per cent of very able children, the other 85 per cent benefit too. Teachers should become more motivated and the school's morale and reputation will grow as a result of shining in its specialist field or sending a higher proportion of pupils to university. Moreover, those pupils who are not selected by ability will still have a chance to move up into the fast stream. Far from being written off at the age of 11, they will have the opportunity to upgrade to grammar-school standards of teaching and learning within their own school.

The only danger of the new circular is its implicit acceptance of the parental interview as a method of selection. Children cannot choose their parents, and those who are able but have unsupportive parents would be doubly disadvantaged by this move. Conversely, pushy middle-class parents are no guarantor ability or motivation in children. The fairest of all methods of selection for general aptitude is still an IQ test, combined perhaps with tests in English and maths. Children's ability should be allowed to speak for itself.

RAIL ROMANCE REVIVED

Kent commuterland becomes the gateway to the wider world

Ashford, a prosperous market town in Kent, could become the Crewe of the 21st century. The 06.19 Eurostar from Waterloo yesterday became the first train to stop — intentionally — this side of the Channel when it drew up at Ashford International, the new southern gateway to the Continent. Nine international services will now call daily at the station, with services to Paris and Brussels, additional stops at Calais and Lille and connections in the future to southern France, Germany and beyond. For the first time in 150 years, a British regional station will be able to boast, like hundreds of stations in Switzerland or Belgium, access to mighty expresses purring their way to distant foreign parts.

Ashford should rejoice in being put on the railway map. Its £100 million station is a confident assertion of a future that will bring two million passengers a year to this new interchange. Nick Derbyshire, the architect responsible for the inspired reconstruction of Liverpool Street, has produced next century's version of the soaring public architecture that defined the Victorians a century ago. In doing so, he has added Ashford to a list of towns spawned and enriched by the railways: Crewe, Swindon and York in Britain, Chicago in America and Novosibirsk in Siberia, a mere village until the builders of the Trans-Siberian camped on the banks of the mighty Ob while they pondered the engineering challenge.

Ashford will perhaps never become Leipzig, which long boasted that it was Europe's biggest station. With 26 platforms, it once offered connections to every part of Europe, and survived both allied bombs and East German bankruptcy — though for 40 years its echoing halls were eerily empty, isolated behind the Iron Curtain. Now that trains again flow uninterrupted from west to east, Leipzig, to its chagrin, is to lose two platforms and its pre-eminence to Frankfurt.

Ashford, however, has come to railway fame in a new age of a new train. It inherits the glamour — the fur, the hissing, the anguished partings — that brought all human emotion to the railway station and left *Anna Karenina* and *Brief Encounter* indelibly wreathed in steam. There will be romance, tears and a touch of the exotic on Ashford's platforms too, though free of grimy nostalgia. From today the little Kent town will be the doorway to a continent of adventure.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Moral and practical objections to Masari expulsion

From Sir Horace Phillips

Sir, In discussion of the Masari affair (leading article, January 5; letters, January 6) two related aspects seem to have been neglected: arms sales to certain governments, and the possibility of those governments' eventual downfall.

During the latter years of my diplomatic career (1947-77) and later, the Government made arms exports (euphemistically, defence sales) the leading commercial activity of certain of our embassies. Commenting on the Scott inquiry you observed that "Lady Thatcher was known to be keen on boosting [these] and not to be too choosy about their destination" (leading article, December 9, 1993). The feeling was that if Britain adopted a moral stance, other exporters would exploit the gap. Competitive cynicism crept into government policy. Members of Parliament were given no opportunity to argue whether this boost to British exports should offset any moral qualms.

I could understand the domestic political advantages: jobs and export earnings. But I deplored the seemingly indiscriminate spread of these exports. If they helped Britain, that was held to be reason enough for them — never mind what kind of dictatorial regime the purchasers might be. And the more dictatorial, it seemed, the more profitable the exports: Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia.

But leave aside the moral aspect. History shows that no people will tolerate dictatorship indefinitely. And when such a regime is eventually brought down the people are all too ready to allege that it was supported in its rule by arms bought from foreign powers. Whatever commercial or other advantages the latter may have had in the country as a result, these disappear with the fallen regime. Khomeini's Iran demonstrated this all too vividly. It is a cynical arms-supplying government that shuts its eyes to that long-term danger, besides baulking the short-term moral issue, in order to make a quick profit.

Yours faithfully,
HORACE PHILLIPS,
34a Sheridan Road, SW19.
January 6.

From the Leader of the Muslim Parliament of Great Britain

Sir, In 1978, David Owen, then Foreign Secretary, defended British support for the Shah of Iran (report, October 23, 1978) in strikingly similar terms to those used by Miss Ann Widdecombe, the Home Office Minister, when she was justifying the decision to deport Dr Muhammad al-Masari, head of the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR) in Saudi Arabia.

The fact is that the fall of the Shah in 1979 did not lead to widespread redundancies in Britain, or the loss of lucrative trade with Iran, especially in defence equipment, as had been feared. The Saudis, too, will continue to buy British if the product and price is right, and if the backhanders are generous, whatever they may say now. But the British Government cannot afford to overlook the unpopularity of the Saudi regime or offend those who will almost certainly form that country's next government.

It is not true that the anti-Saudi sentiment has been brought to Britain by the arrival here of the CDLR and Dr Masari. Fewer than 100 of the 1,000 mosques in Britain are Saudi-financed and controlled. The rest have long been politicised and actively anti-Saudi. London is already a major centre of the global Islamic movement and this will remain the case with or without Dr Masari. The Islamic movement in Britian may well be strengthened by his deportation, while the work of the CDLR will be continued by others.

The British Government must take a broad view of the changes that are poised to sweep through the Muslim world. Cultivating friends for the future is as important as keeping present friends mollified.

Yours faithfully,
KALIM SIDDIQUI, Leader,
Muslim Parliament of Great Britain,
109 Fulham Palace Road, W6.

From Mr Tony Purton

Sir, If, as the report in your earlier editions today suggests, Dominica's kind offer of asylum for Muhammad al-Masari is connected with a significant increase of overseas aid to the island, has the Government once again exceeded its powers under the Overseas Development and Co-operation Act 1980 by linking British aid with British arms sales? The Pergau Dam affair seems to have been forgotten.

Yours faithfully,
TONY PURTON,
48 Kent Avenue, Ealing, W13.
January 6.

From Mr Edward Taylor

Sir, Tony Banks states that Saudi Arabia has "a very nasty and unpleasant regime" (report, January 5). Is this the official opinion of the Labour Party? If it is, and if the party wins the next election, then we might as well forget about any future co-operation, commercial or political, with the friendly Arab states, particularly those within the Gulf Co-operation Council.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD TAYLOR,
Pentreceithon, Rhayader, Powys.
January 6.

Irish peace process

From Mr John Coleman

Sir, It would be very sad if the Irish peace process failed now (report and Kevin Myers article, January 3). I sympathise with the Protestants in Northern Ireland who want decommissioning of IRA arms before talks take place, but more or less total restraint in the use of those arms for a year should form the basis for talks. The decommissioning of weapons should be strictly related to any concessions given to the IRA in those talks.

In principle it is best to talk to people, however bad you might think they are. Jaw-jaw is always better than war-war. Each positive piece of good that comes out of talks should naturally be accompanied by a step in the decommissioning process.

How else can the IRA leadership seem credible to its turbulent followers?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN COLEMAN (Editor),
New European,
14-16 Carroun Road, SW8.
January 3.

From Mr David Beck

Sir, Cardinal Cahal Daly's well intentioned comments on the Northern Irish peace process during a Mass in his Armagh archdiocese (report, January 2) may be counter-productive. For the cardinal to use this opportunity to comment on the Conservatives' "*shrinking majority*" at Westminster is an unhelpful mix of religion and politics.

If the much sought-for peaceful solution to the problems of Northern Ireland is to be found, should not all churches agree to an immediate cessation of politics from the pulpit?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BECK,
33 St Stephen's Terrace, SW8.
January 2.

Ethiopian monoliths

From Professor Emeritus Bent Juel-Jensen

Sir, It is good that you should keep your readers informed about the progress of Dr Phillipson's excavations in Aksum in the northern highlands of Ethiopia ("Ancient city reveals more of its secrets", December 28).

During the few weeks its stay lasted, the German Aksum expedition of 1906 made important discoveries, but it was not the first to report the existence of the magnificent monoliths. Francesco Alvarez gives a vivid description of the stelae in his account of the Portuguese expedition to Ethiopia in the early 1520s (published in Lisbon in 1540).

Several writers have noted them since, including Manoel de Almeida in the 17th century, and Henry Salt not only described the stelae in his volumes but published a large handcoloured aquatint of the stelae in 1809, the finest picture of them to appear to date.

Yours faithfully,
BENT JUEL-JENSON,
St Cross College, Oxford.
January 1.

Business letters, page 27

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Labour and welfare

From the Shadow Secretary of State for Social Security

Sir, Labour is indeed looking at a number of different options for welfare reform, for improving the security offered to people in their old age, and at reducing the overall DSS budget — but contrary to the suggestion in your report ("Labour ponders welfare sell-off", January 5) we are by no means considering "privatising" the welfare budget.

Indeed, the Singaporean model, which I am flying out to see at first hand next week, is a collective Government scheme, not a private one. It does however offer individual members a real personal stake, whilst at the same time drawing on the collective strength of a national insurance model.

I would stress that at this stage Labour has not reached any specific conclusions in its review of welfare policy, but we do believe that there are a number of lessons we can learn from best practice elsewhere. We will not, however, be looking to either the Adam Smith Institute or this privatising Government for advice.

Yours sincerely,
CHRIS SMITH,
Shadow Secretary of State
for Social Security,
House of Commons.
January 5.

Vegetative state

From Professor J. Grimley Evans

Sir, I fear your report, "Woman recovers after five years in vegetative state" (January 4), may have given a rather incomplete picture of the fate of the young lady reported in this week's *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Although it speaks of "recovery", the paper it quotes speaks only of "improvement". At the time of discharge from hospital the patient was "wheelchair-bound and totally dependent for all care".

We are not told what burdens her family now bear or what their feelings are about this success of modern American medicine.

Yours sincerely,
J. GRIMLEY EVANS,
Department of Clinical Geratology,
The Radcliffe Infirmary,
Oxford OX2 6HE.
January 4.

Gurkha stigma

From Professor Peter Rowe

Sir, Sir Michael Scott (letter, December 30; see also letter, January 5) is right to draw attention to the inaccuracy of describing the Gurkhas as mercenaries.

The Gurkhas serving with the British Army are a part of it. Their inclusion in the armed forces of a State ensures that during an armed conflict they will not come within the definition of a mercenary under Article 47 of the 1977 Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions 1949.

The Government has indicated its intention to ratify the 1977 protocol and, in preparation, Parliament has passed the *Geneva Conventions (Amendment) Act 1995*.

Yours faithfully,
PETER ROWE,
Lancaster University,
Department of Law,
Lancaster, LA1 4YN.

Pomp and Pompey

From Mr John Crookshank

Sir, Marcus Binney's imaginative piece about Portsmouth's naval heritage ("The Navy and all its Pompey", Arts, January 3) opens up exciting, practical prospects which are encouraging for those who know and love the rather ramshackle old port city.

There is even more to see than Mr Binney mentions: *HMS Victory*, of course, and the hull and artefacts of the *Mary Rose*, and Britain's first ironclad warship, *Warrior*. There are the Palmerston ports dotting the Spithead approach to the harbour and Portchester Castle at its head.

The best way to see all this would be by boat. You could nose into the creeks on the Gosport side, visiting the Submarine Museum, the Victorian ports and the military establishments, and you could sail into and around the dockyard. Boat trips would cause fewer problems for the "Navy in being" than buses within the dockyard.

Mr Binney reports that Gunwharf, next to the harbour railway station, is billed as a possible new home for the Royal Yacht *Britannia*. Were that to happen, this would be the obvious place to start the harbour tours.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN CROOKSHANK,
Ivy House, North Street,
Westbourne, Emsworth, Hampshire.

Rural poverty

From the President of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

Sir, Libby Purves is right that there are parallels between urban and rural poverty ("Not so very pastoral", January 2). Rural poverty may be less visible, but it is every bit as soul-destroying.

The answers to reversing the process of rural decay are most likely to be found in those areas which have achieved considerable growth in employment. That growth has come overwhelmingly in the leisure, distribution and small-scale manufacturing sectors. It has been made possible by improved communications and technology, growth in tourism and the desire to relocate businesses in a more attractive environment.

The coming together of all the factors critical to success seldom happens by chance. The development of tourism, for instance, depends on good communications. The ability to attract a range of new industries depends on good local services and a trained workforce.

Ensuring that all the building blocks are in place demands a comprehensive approach to rural enterprise, services and environment.

With the publication of the White Paper *Rural England* (report, October 18, 1995) we have for the first time the skeleton of a national rural strategy. We must now complement it by developing comprehensive rural strategies at local level which harness the many intrinsic strengths that rural areas possess.

Yours etc,
SIMON POTT, President,
The Royal Institution of
Chartered Surveyors,
12 Great George Street,
Parliament Square, SW1.
January 3.

Balance of benefit in recycling paper

From Dr Georgina Green

Sir, The points made by Dr Lyndhurst Collins of Edinburgh University on paper recycling (report, January 4) must be balanced by a fuller consideration of the issues related to forestry and paper consumption.

Predictions by the UN's Food and Agricultural Organisation and others show that the world demand for wood will almost double by the year 2010. Even given a huge expansion in the area under forest, a decrease in demand for new wood is essential if global forest production is to be managed on a sustainable basis. Recycling is an essential part of the strategy to achieve this decrease, but it must be accompanied by a reduction in overall consumption of forest products.

An increase in the global forest estate can help meet the growing demand for wood, but forests should not be regarded merely as timber-producing factories. A key objective of multipurpose forests is to manage them for a range of benefits — biodiversity conservation, recreation, cultural heritage, soil preservation and climate amelioration — as well as for wood production.

Planting new trees will help absorb CO_2; but turning these trees into paper that is used once and then disposed of results in the CO_2 being released into the atmosphere again. The carbon in the biomass in old-growth forests means that they are in fact better as carbon stores. For this reason, combatting climate change through forests should emphasise natural forest conservation, not the expansion of plantations for pulp production.

The problem of transporting waste over great distances from collection point to recycling plant simply reflects the lack of development of industries and markets to use the waste locally. Producing paper from local recycled material requires less energy and is less polluting than using new trees.

Studies have shown that more energy is saved by recycling paper than is generated by its incineration, and that recycling has greater economic, social and environmental benefits than incineration.

Recycling is a green option. Readers are urged to think of the three Rs: reduce, re-use, recycle. This includes continuing to recycle their copies of *The Times*.

Yours etc,
GEORGINA GREEN
(Forest Campaigner),
Friends of the Earth,
26-28 Underwood Street, N1.
January 4.

From the Director of the British Newsprint Manufacturers' Association

Sir, Dr Collins is wrong to say that the virtues of recycling paper "had not been based on sound scientific evidence" and that "paper waste would often be better burnt as fuel than recycled".

A study which we commissioned last year by Professor David Pearce of University College London and other experts concluded overwhelmingly that recycling paper was environmentally and economically preferable to incineration. Recycling provides a value-added benefit to society while incineration imposes a net cost.

Recycling does not present a threat to growing trees, as Dr Collins suggests. Worldwide demand for wood is growing and while this is so, trees will continue to be planted. Paper cannot be recycled indefinitely, so there will always be demand for virgin fibre.

Nor has the paper and pulp industry built recycling plants because environmentalists have "pinned them to the wall". The £250 million recycled-paper mill at Aylesford Newsprint in Kent will add £90 million a year to the UK balance of payments. Other mills too are investing heavily in plant, equipment and jobs because waste paper is far more abundant in the UK than virgin fibre.

The efforts of those who recycle their paper to make an environmental and economic contribution should not be undermined by bold claims which might grab a headline yet appear to be unsubstantiated.

Yours sincerely,
BRYAN C. BATEMAN,
Director,
British Newsprint
Manufacturers' Association,
Papermakers' House,
Rivenhall Road, Swindon, Wiltshire.
January 5.

Lines of inquiry

From Mr Ben Olds

Sir, Congratulations to Dr Daniel Dorling on his research findings that the equity in one's house determines one's lifespan (report, January 5). He may be interested to learn that by not moving for many years I have added over two years to my own.

There must be other worthwhile subjects for Dr Dorling's research. Is lifespan related to living in the inner city estates or rural suburbs; to profession, building labourer and clergyman for example; nights spent in hotels per year (by star category)? These and many other burning questions demand his urgent attention.

Yours faithfully,
BEN OLDS,
63 Bramcote Avenue,
Chilwell, Nottingham.
January 5.

مكنا من الأصل

مكان الأصل

COURT CIRCULAR

YORK HOUSE,
ST JAMES'S PALACE
January 8: The Duke of Kent this evening opened an Exhibition of paintings of Brazil, Christies Great Rooms, King Street, London SW1.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as President of the British Olympic appeal at Bonham's Montpelier Street, at 7.00.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11am.

Birthdays today

Major D.S. Allhusen, equestrian Olympic medallist, 82; Mr Justice Alliott, 64; Lady Anson, former deputy chairman, Association of District Councils, 65; Miss Joan Baez, folk singer, 55; Mr Hugh Bayley, MP, 44; Mrs M.L.S. Bennett, former Principal, St Hilda's College, Oxford, 83; Mr Harvey Betram-Brown, fashion designer, 30; Sir Rudolf Bing, former general manager, Metropolitan Opera, New York, 94; Mr Ken Brown, golfer, 39; Sir John Buckley, former chairman, Davy Corporation, 83; the Earl of Carrick, 43; Mrs Christine Crawley, MEP, 46; Mr Clive Dunn, actor, 74; Sir Anthony Durant, MP, 68; Sir Graham Eyre, QC, 65; Mr Michael Gifford, chief executive and managing director, Rank Organisation, 60; Father Benedict Green, theologian, 72; Mr Terry Hands, former artistic director, Royal Shakespeare Company, 55; Mr David Holbrook, author, 73; Mr L.J. Holliday, former chairman, John Laing Construction, 75; Mr Raymond Horrocks, former chairman, Austin Rover Group Holdings, 66; Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys, 46; Sir Michael Jenkins, diplomat, 60; Mr Simon Jervis, former Director, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, 53; Mr Justice Ognall, 62; Miss Joely Richardson, actress, 31; Mr Ralph Tubbs, architect, 84; Mr Derek Twiner, former Governor, Canterbury prison, 56; Viscount Ullswater, 54; Mr Ivor Ward, Governor, Feltham Young Offenders' Institution, 51; Mr Geoffrey Wragg, racehorse trainer, 66; Miss Susannah York, actress, 54

Dinner

The Athenaeum
The Archbishop of Canterbury was the speaker at a talk dinner held last night at the Athenaeum. Viscount Caldecote was the chairman.

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: John Jervis, Earl of St Vincent, Admiral of the Fleet, Stone, Staffordshire, 1735; Lascelles Abercrombie, poet and critic, Ashton-upon-Mersey, 1881; Dame Gracie Fields, singer, Rochdale, Lancashire, 1898; Simone de Beauvoir, novelist and critic, Paris, 1908; Rose Louise Hovick (Gypsy Rose Lee), 1914.

DEATHS: Caroline Herschel, astronomer, Hanover, 1848; Napoleon III, French Emperor 1852-70, Chislehurst, Kent, 1873; Katherine Mansfield, writer, Fontainbleau, France, 1923; Karl Mannheim, sociologist, London, 1947; Pier Luigi Nervi, engineer and architect, Rome, 1979; Sir Charles Curran, Director-General of the BBC 1969-1977, 1980.

Income tax was introduced by William Pitt the Younger, 1799.

Sir Humphry Davy's safety lamp was first used in a coalmine, 1816.

Anthony Eden resigned as Prime Minister, 1957.

The liner *Queen Elizabeth* was destroyed by fire in Hong Kong harbour, 1972.

The Institute of Mathematics and its Applications

The following have been granted Chartered Mathematician status and Fellowship of the Institute:
Dr D J Allwright, Dr T J Baker, Dr I Beg, Mr S Berry, Mr N Block, Mr M E Bowe, Mr G H Boyd, Dr M Bruen, Mr A A S Bryans, Dr K Chen, Mr J D Creasey, Dr A Csenki, Dr J M Dowden, Dr D N Eastham, Mr A F Everett, Dr M J L Greenhow, Dr P Grindrod, Mr J Hamilton, Mr G G Hay, Dr M A A A Helal, Dr B Hudson, Dr J M Hurst, Mr D G Johnson, Dr T Keating, Dr M A Kelmanson, Mr D J E Kilsby, Mr M E Lewis, Mr D G Littlejohns, Mr R G Lynch, Mr B C Merrifield, Mr L M Miller, Dr P J Mitchell, Mr A J Morsley, Dr A J Osiadacz, Dr J L Parry, Dr D W Pearson, Dr A M Pilato, Mr P H Readle, Dr A J Robins, Mr T Roper, Mr M Rycraft, Dr S C Ryrie, Dr F M-L Seillier-Moiseiwitsch, Mr A Stittle, Dr B R Stonebridge, Mr R E Tew, Mr P A J Thomas, Mr J Thorpe, Dr S P Townsend, Dr R J Verrall.

Luncheon

Coal Industry Society
Mr Richard Page, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Small Business Industry and Energy, was the principal guest and speaker, and was introduced by Mr D.R.T. Waring, president, at a luncheon of the Coal Industry Society held yesterday at the Park Lane Hotel. Mr C.R. Sully presided.

Appointment

Imperial Cancer Research Fund
Dr Paul Nurse has been appointed Director-General of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund from September 1, 1996, when Sir Walter Bodmer, the present director-general, moves to Oxford University as Principal of Hertford College.

Prince Harry passes a gate as he slides down a hill skiing for Britain yesterday at Davos in the under-12 event during the 40th annual Anglo-Swiss parliamentary ski race. The 11-year-old Prince and his father were invited to take part in the downhill slalom on the final day of their skiing holiday

School announcements

Bedford High School

The Spring Term begins today and ends on March 27. The Concert of Wind Music is on March 19. The Gymnastics Display is on March 7 and 8. Junior assessments are on January 20 (8 plus), January 31 (7 plus), January 27 (9 plus and 10 plus): Senior Entrance Examinations and Assisted Places Examinations are on January 25. The Senior School and Sixth Form will be open to prospective parents and their daughters on January 13. The Careers Conference will be on March 21.

The Bedford Charity (The Harpur Trust) includes in its aims the provision of high quality education for girls. Charity registration no: 204817.

Benenden School

Term starts today at Benenden School. Open mornings for parents of prospective students will be held on February 3 and 24. The Founders' Lecture, "Where is God when things go wrong?", will be given by Sister Gemma Simmonds on March 3. Seniors' Day will take place on May 18 at the School.

Chigwell School

Lent Term at Chigwell School starts today and ends on Wednesday, March 27. Entrance examinations for 11 year age group entry and Harsnett Scholarship examinations will be held on Saturday, January 20 and for 7 to 10 year age groups on Saturday, January 13. The Music Scholarship auditions will be held on Friday and Saturday, February 2 and 3. The Lent Term Concert will take place on Tuesday, February 13, during the Arts Festival Week which will run from Monday to Friday, February 12 to 16. A full programme for the Arts Festival is available from the Headmaster's Secretary. Old Chigwellians who wish to attend the Shrove Tuesday Supper on February 20 should contact the Headmaster's Secretary.

Holmwood House, Colchester

Spring Term begins today at Holmwood House, Colchester. *Dazzle* will be performed on February 1-3; the Spring Concert is on Friday, March 15 and term ends with Open Morning on March 22.

Churcher's College

Lent Term at Churcher's College begins today. The College entrance examination will take place on Saturday, February 3. Half term is from February 17 to February 26. The Captain of Boys Hockey is Dominic Knight and the Captain of Girls Hockey is Jo Hounsome. The Annual Hockey match between the OCC and the College takes place on March 24. The OCC dinner at the East India Club will be held on Friday, May 10, and bookings can be made through the College office. Term ends on March 29.

The King's School, Canterbury

The Lent term begins today. A Confirmation Service will be held in the Cathedral on Sunday, March 10, at which the Bishop of Dover will confirm. Term will end on Saturday, March 23.

The King's School, Ely

The Lent Term begins today. The new artificial sports surface will be officially opened for use on Saturday, January 20. There will be a professional hockey coaching session for Under 13s followed by a match between a celebrity team and the School's First Eleven players. The Concert Band will give their traditional New Year Concert with Buffet Supper in the Hayward Theatre on Friday, January 26, and the Music Festival Finalists' Concert will take place on Friday, February 16. The Junior School 11+ Scholarship Examination will be held on Friday, February 2, and the Senior School Music Scholarships on Friday and Saturday, February 9 and 10. The Lord Bishop will conduct the Confirmation Service on Saturday, March 2, at 11.00 am in the Cathedral. The Junior School play *The Importance of Being Earnest* will be presented in the Hayward Theatre in matinée on Tuesday, March 12, and at evening performances on Wednesday and Thursday, March 13 and 14. The 1996 Osmond Lecture will be given by Helen Sharman, OBE, on Friday, March 15, in the Hayward Theatre under the title "Astronaut required: no experience necessary". Tickets are available to interested Old Eleans and parents on application to the Deputy Head's secretary. The Hoop Trundle will be held on Saturday, March 16, at noon. The Senior School Choir will be joined by those of King's Peterborough and Norwich School to sing Evensong in the Cathedral on Wednesday, March 20. Term ends on Friday, March 22.

Reigate Grammar School

The Spring Term begins today. The Annual Dinner of the Old Reigatian Association will be held on Friday, February 9. There will be five performances of the musical *Bugsy Malone* during the week beginning Monday, February 12. The Choir will sing Evensong in Southwark Cathedral on Monday, March 25 and the term will end on Friday, March 29.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.A.G. Bass
and Miss C.A. Perry
The engagement is announced between Damian, son of Mr and Mrs A.G. Bass, of Ashurst Wood, Sussex, and Christine, daughter of Mr and Mrs K.T.E. Perry, of Perry Green, Somerset.

Mr P.W. Bilney
and Miss C.M. du Sautoy
The engagement is announced between Philip, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Bilney, of Abbey Wood, London, and Charlotte, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Bernard du Sautoy, of Penzance, Cornwall.

Mr N.A. Brett
and Miss M.H.A. Jowitt
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, younger son of Mr and Mrs Simon Brett, of Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, and Henrietta, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs James Jowitt, of Rickling, Essex.

Mr D.C. Coupland
and Ms S.A.L. Greene
The engagement is announced between Darren, son of Mr and Mrs Ralph Coupland, of Boston, Lincolnshire, and Sarah Anna Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs Patrick Greene, of Harrow, Middlesex.

Mr O.J. Day
and Miss S.C. Lyle
The engagement is announced between Owen John, son of Professor and Mrs Nicholas Day, of Haddenham, Cambridgeshire, and Suki, daughter of Lieutenant Colonel Michael Lyle and the late the Hon Mrs Lyle, of Dunkeld, Perthshire.

Mr A.J. MacKinnon
and Miss N.C. Lomax
The engagement is announced between Alan, elder son of Dr and Mrs Ian MacKinnon, of La Celle St Cloud, France, and Nicola, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Chris Lomax, of Pinner, Middlesex.

Mr C.S. Macmillan
and Miss S. Lowndes
The engagement is announced between Scott, son of Mr and Mrs Neil Macmillan, of Harpenden, Hertfordshire, and Sarah, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Lowndes, also of Harpenden.

Mr A.M. Maton
and Dr J.K. Simpson
The engagement is announced between Andrew Mark, younger son of Mr and Mrs Norman Maton, of Christchurch, Dorset, and Joanna Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Simpson, of Chorleywood.

Captain S.P.St.L. Mieczkowski
and Miss J.M.S. Kee
The engagement is announced between Stefan, son of Mr Zbigniew and the Hon Mrs Mieczkowski, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, and Jocelyn, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Arthur Kee, of Stranorlar, Co Donegal, Eire.

Mr R.D. Ross Russell
and Miss S.E. Jones
The engagement is announced between Rory, younger son of Dr and Mrs Ralph Ross Russell, of Rohampton, London, and Sian, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Gwyn Jones, of Hurstbourne Priors, Hampshire.

Mr C. Stiles
and Miss J.V. Yorke-Long
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of David and Mary Stiles, of Waipukurau, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand, and Juli, youngest daughter of David and Daphne Yorke-Long, of Stocgrove, Leighton Buzzard.

Marriages

Señor J.C. Colin
and Miss L. Hodges
The marriage took place in Mexico, on Saturday, November 25, between Señor Juan Carlos Colin and Miss Lucy Hodges, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Hodges, of Lowlands, Trinity, Jersey.

Mr M.N. Tegner
and Miss V.M.H. Murphy
The marriage took place on Saturday, January 6, 1996, at St Edmund's College, Cambridge, between Mr Luke Tegner, son of Mr and Mrs Ian Tegner, and Miss Ginny Murphy, daughter of Dr and Mrs Michael Murphy. The Rev F Michael Robson officiated.

The bride was attended by Miss Siobhan Brownlow, Alexandra Raike and Cecilia Neill. Mr Robert Williams and Mr Tim Wilkinson were the best men.

Latest wills

Mr Charles Hugh **Shirley**, of Andover, Hampshire, the children's book publisher, who set up his own company Ragged Bears, left estate valued at £160,210 net.
He left £2,000 to Appleshaw Parochial Church Council.

Mrs Jean Elizabeth **Leuckert**, of Alnwick, Northumberland, left estate valued at £4,122,350 net.

Mr Kenneth **Shaw**, of Dudley, West Midlands, left estate valued at £1,235,426 net. He died intestate.

Professor Michael Leonard Graham **Balfour**, of Burford, Oxfordshire, former Professor of European History at the University of East Anglia, left estate valued at £122,348 net.
He left £100 each to Balliol College, Oxford, National Trust, the London Library, Dr Barnardos, Historic Churches Preservation Trust, Save the Children Fund, Shelter, Christian Aid, Oxfam and the Gardeners' Benevolent Society.

Other estates include (net before tax):
Mr Cln William **Dennis**, of Dulwich, London SE21, £1,293,725.
Mr Philip Ward **Hodgson**, of Haslemere, Surrey £2,516,756;
Mrs Alice Lilian **Wilcock-Holgate** of Edinburgh £1,766,902.
Mr Anthony Charles **Monk**, of Broadstone, Dorset........ £543,868.
Mr Jol Pemberton **Mosse**, of Farnham, Surrey .... £686,453.
Mr Valerie Joan **Munro**, of Stone, Staffordshire .... £3,960,154.
Mrs Ea Mary **Petty**, of Southampton.................. £850,984.
Mr William Alan Watson **Shearer**, of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire........ £1,459,881.

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When John came to show you the right way to live, you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and prostitutes did; and even when you saw that you did not believe him.
Matthew 21 : 32 (REB)

BIRTHS

BLAIR - On December 15th 1996 at Kingston Hospital, Surrey, to Louise and Donovan, a beautiful son, Harrison James Valentine. What a wonderful Christmas present!

BRADLEY - On 5th January 1996 at The Portland Hospital, to Ursula and Terrance, a longed for child, Caedmon Alexander.

COOK - On December 31st 1995, to Megan (née Adams) and Joe, a daughter, Celia Jennifer Mary, a sister for Jack.

FERNYHOUGH - On 1st January 1996 at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, to Davina and Nicholas, a son, Edward James Vincent.

GRIFFITHS - On January 5th, to Rosalyn (née Platt-Higgins) and Martin, a son, Edward Alexander Telford.

GRUBB - On 23rd December at Princess Royal, Haywards Heath, to Tony and Jennifer, a daughter, Lucy.

HACKING - On January 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Elizabeth (née Beach) and William, a beautiful son, Richard David, a brother for Margaret and Clare.

JONAS - On January 7th 1996, to Marina (née Snow) and Chris, a son, William.

LEVY - On 5th January 1996 at The Portland Hospital, to Victoria (née Cohen) and Michael, a beautiful son, Kaine Zachary, a brother for excited Joshua.

MACKINTOSH - To Charles and Sheela (née Kaur), a daughter, Alexandra India Shui-Han, on 30th December 1995.

MARRIOTT - On 4th January, to Harry and Dinah (née Douglas-Home), a daughter.

NICOL - On December 28th, to Christina (née Petry) and Malcolm, a son, Patrick William John, a brother to Abigail, Jennifer, Alice, Catherine, Elisabeth and Lydia.

OETTINGEN - On December 10th at The Portland Hospital, London, a beautiful daughter, Helena, Carl-Eugen and Alexandra Oettingen-Wallerstein.

PORTMAN - On January 2nd at The Portland Hospital, to Emma (née Morgan) and Alexander, a beautiful son, Maximilian.

STOVOLD - On Christmas Day, to Catriona and Angus, a daughter, Harriet Louisa Francesca, a sister for Alexander.

TARICONE - On January 4th at The Portland Hospital, to Francesca Quattrocchi and Marcello, their first beautiful son, Michael.

TERRY - On January 3rd 1996 at The Portland Hospital to Betsy and Jim a beautiful daughter, Samantha Kate, and long awaited sister to Lauren.

THOMAS - On December 24th, to Samantha and Tobyn, a daughter, Isobel Jemima.

DEATHS

ABRAHAM - Paul died suddenly at home on 2nd January 1996 aged 72. Donations to British Heart Foundation sent to Longhurst Funeral Directors, 8-10 Pound Lane, Epsom, Surrey.

AKEL - Dr. Frederick died peacefully at home on 4th January 1996 aged 75. Funeral will take place at St Saviours, Walton Place, at 11 am on Friday 12th January. No flowers please but donations to Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

BAXTER - John Herbert on January 5th 1996 aged 65, beloved husband of Joan, loving father of Bill and Brenda and adored grandfather. Funeral Service at St Annes Church, East Wittering on Monday 15th January 1996 at 2 pm followed by family cremation. Family flowers only but donations if desired to British Lung Foundation or Star & Garter Home, c/o F.A. Holland & Son, 5 Jubilee Road, Chichester, West Sussex. Tel: 01243 782965.

BROWN - On 6th January 1996, Dom George, monk of Ealing, aged 80 years; former Headmaster of St Benedict's School. Requiem Mass at Ealing Abbey, Monday, January 15th, at 2pm. R.I.P

COHU - Jeremy John Robert, suddenly on January 4th at Harefield Hospital. Dearly beloved husband of Susan and father of Heide and Justin. Funeral St Mary the Virgin Bramshott, near Liphook, Hampshire, Tuesday January 16th, at 2pm. Donations if wished, to Harefield Hospital Transplant Trust.

CONNELL - On January 6th, suddenly after a long and brave fight against the pain of osteo-arthritis, Eamée Jean, the dearly loved wife for 51 years of Brian. A sunny tempered charmer who will be sorely missed by many. Private family cremation. Enquiries to Nigel Dengate Funeral Services, tel: (01273) 204410.

DANIEL - Eileen Mary (formerly Eileen Reid) on 6th January at The North Devon District Hospital after a short illness aged 50 years of Bude and London. Secretary to P.S.I. Beloved wife of Bill, dear daughter of Rena, loving sister of Ann and Brian and aunt of Gillian, Lyn, David and Allison. Funeral Service at St Olafs Church, Poughill, Bude, Cornwall, on Friday January 12th at 11 am, followed by cremation. Family flowers only but donations if desired for the R.N.L.I. c/o the funeral director Arthur W. Bryant, Belle Vue Avenue, Bude, EX23 8BS

DUNDAS - Ian. Peacefully on January 4th in California. Much loved husband of Mari and of the late Peggy, dear father to Nigel and Gill and dearly loved grandfather. Funeral has taken place. Any enquiries to Box No.

ELLIOTT - On Sunday January 7th peacefully in his sleep at Firlands Nursing Home, Canford Cliffs, George Ernest Alexander aged 84 years, devoted husband of Doreen, much loved father of Christopher and grandad of Melissa. He will be sadly missed by his family and many friends. Funeral at Poole Crematorium on Tuesday January 16th at 2.30 pm. Flowers to Tapper Funeral Service, 32/34 Parkstone Road, Poole.

FAIRBAIRN - Colin (M.S.I.) on January 1st 1996 aged 61 years, much loved husband and father. Sadly missed by wife Julie and children Caroline and Iain. Was devoted to family and friends. The funeral service will take place at Eltham Crematorium at 10.45 am on Friday 19th January. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Arthritis Care c/o Sharon Hawthorne, 18 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2HD, tel. (0171) 916-1500.

FOXON - Joan (née Burlinson), widow of Prof. G.E.H. Foxon Aged 91 years, died peacefully 4th January 1996 at Leatherhead Hospital. Beloved mother of Ann and Tony, mother-in-law to Pauline and Gordon, grandmother of Jane and Sally. Funeral 1.30 pm Friday 12th January Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, Surrey. Flowers to L. Hawkins & Sons Ltd., F/D, 2, Highlands Road, Leatherhead, KT22 8ND, tel. (01372) 372436 or donations to W.W.F.UK.

FRAIN-BELL - Peacefully at home on January 7th 1996, William M.D. St. AND. F.R.C.P. (EDIN). Dearly loved by his wife Pat (Catherine) and by his daughter Alison. Cremation private according to his wishes.

FRASER DARLING - On 5th January 1996 at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, Christina, widow of the late Sir Frank Fraser Darling. Funeral at St John's Episcopal Church, Forres, Thursday 11th January at 1.30 pm.

GALLICO - Joyce Elizabeth (née Griggs) on 5th January 1996. Beloved wife, mother and grandmother. Requiem Friday 12th January at St Mary's, Kenton at 11.45 am. Family flowers only. Donations RNLI, Stanmore Branch.

GARNETT - Peacefully at Kello Hospital, Biggar, on Sunday 7th January 1996, Kenneth Alan Garnett, beloved husband of Eileen. Funeral private. A Memorial Service will be held in Biggar Parish Church on Monday 15th January 1996 at 11.30am, to which all are invited. No flowers or letters please.

GEIRINGER - Alfred died peacefully on January 5th 1996 aged 84. He leaves a loving wife Wendy, daughters Susan, Kate and Judith and grandchildren Anna, Joseph, Jack, Thomas, Allison and Matthew. The funeral will take place at Putney Vale Crematorium on Tuesday January 16th at 11.15 am. Flowers to F.W. Paine, 29 Coombe Road, Norbiton, Kingston-Upon-Thames, Surrey KT2 7AY or donations to the Alzheimer's Disease Society c/o F.W. Paine.

GIFFEN - John Hunter Paterson (Jack) passed away peacefully in his sleep on 2nd January 1996, beloved father of Iain and Jill. Funeral Service on Thursday 18th January at the South West Middlesex Crematorium, Hanworth. Enquiries to Lodge Bros. Funeral Directors. (01932) 785402

HUDSON - Daphne Elizabeth Susan, formerly Bower, passed peacefully away on December 30th 1995, aged 80 years. Funeral Service and cremation will take place at St Faith's Crematorium, Norwich, on Monday January 15th 1996 at 1 pm. Flowers please by 11 am, however donations may be made if desired to The Norfolk Bone Marrow Treatment Appeal and sent c/o Gordon Barber Funeral Home, 317 Aylsham Road, Norwich NR3 2AB

JONES - On January 7th following an accident Joan Harcourt, widow of Cyril McLean Jones. Much loved sister to Sidney and Sylvia and Aunt to Suzie, Simon and Rebecca. Enquiries to MacPhersons, Burley and Geach 01428 605366.

KENYON - On January 6th 1996 in Norwich, Professor John Philipps aged 68 years, dearly loved husband of Angela, father of Sara, Charlotte and Daniel. Enquiries regarding funeral arrangements to Bartrum, E. Dereham, (01362) 699484.

LASSON - Hans Colla Chin Petju Krvyovies aged 77 on January 6th 1996 peacefully in Albi, France, after a remarkable and full life. Beloved husband of Barbara, a very dear father of Mary-Ann and Sally-Ann, loving grandfather of Emily, Jonathan, William and Domenica and dear ex-husband of Sally.

LEADAM - Pamela Seaton peacefully on January 3rd at Knowle Park Nursing Home, Cranleigh. Funeral at Guildford Crematorium on Friday January 12th at 1.30pm. Family flowers only but donations may be made in her memory to the Peoples Dispensary for Sick Animals c/o Pimms Funeral Services, Charters, Mary Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4QX.

LLOYD - Professor Seton CBE, peacefully in hospital aged 93. Service at Woolstone 3 pm Saturday January 13th. Family flowers only please - Donations to Prospect Foundation, Moormead, Wroughton.

FRANÇOIS MITTERRAND

François Mitterrand, President of France, 1981-95, died from cancer yesterday aged 79. He was born on October 26, 191.

François Mitterrand, former President of the French Republic, left a stronger imprint on France than any other figure since the war except for Charles de Gaulle. He was a statesman of great dignity and brilliant political skills, but his wily, aloof and secretive style was sometimes the enemy of his socialist humanism.

Abroad, he was a prime architect of European Union; and even in the 1990s when scepticism grew, he held to his policy of an integrated Europe, based on close Franco-German entente. At home, his great achievement in the 1970s and 1980s was to have forged the Socialists into an effective and united party, building it into the main opposition group and edging the Communists onto the sidelines; and then, after taking power, to have helped to move the party away from Marxist dogma and towards the centre, where it became social democrat in all but name. By loosening France's old Left-Right polarisation, he thus played a major role in "normalising" French politics. But when the Socialists then collapsed again in the early 1990s, amid a welter of scandals, one contributing factor may have been his failure to provide the right kind of moral leadership.

Was he ever really a Socialist? The French public did not quite see him as one. After an erratic early career (he was at one time an active Vichyist), he did not join the party until he was over 50; and his brand of socialism was always hard to define. He took power in 981 on a firmly anti-capitalist platform; yet within three years he was espousing the market economy.

He had a great flexibility, a readiness to adapt to new situations and this was a strength: but in his critics' eyes he lacked consistency, and was called "opportunistic" or even "unscrupulous". Certainly, a grasp of economics was never his strongest point. This shy, reserved, very private man was always something of an enigma: "le Sphinx" was one nickname. His dual nature was a mix, it might be said, of Machiavelli and Marcus Aurelius. On the one side, he was the astute and ambitious politician, tenacious and self-confident, a man of great natural authority and dignity who played his cards close to his chest, a constant manipulator behind the suave façade — "le Florentin" was another nickname. On the other side, he was the sensitive intellectual, withdrawn and introspective, a lover of nature and of solitude, a gifted writer steeped in literature.

Even in the hottest of political battles, he gave the impression that part of his mind was elsewhere — musing maybe about the flowers and trees of his beloved holiday home in the Landes. These inner resources, this depth and detachment, added to his strengths as a statesman. But they also made him somewhat aloof, and towards the end of his "reign" he developed a little of the monarchic imperiousness to which the French presidency easily lends itself — "le nouveau Louis XIV" was another sobriquet. This tendency towards grandeur fuelled his unpopularity in the final years of Socialist rule.

In world affairs — his passion — he maintained an assertive role for France. He travelled endlessly, sometimes in bravura style, as when in 1992 he visited besieged Sarajevo. In the Middle East and Latin America, he deployed French initiatives that led to some frictions with the United States. In defence, he held to the Gaullist orthodoxy of the independent nuclear deterrent and of not rejoining Nato's military structure. But, apart from this, he remained loyal to the Western Alliance; and, just as he hated France's own Communists so he retained a wary firmness towards the Soviet Union, even in its final Gorbachev era.

In this, as in much else, Mitterrand kept largely to the Gaullist tradition that has long guided French foreign policy. But he departed sharply from de Gaulle in his vision of a united Europe. Without being truly a "federalist", like many Frenchmen he believed that France could best retain its influence by sharing some sovereignty within a larger European unit; and in the later 1980s he became unquestionably the political leader of the Community. But then came German unification, which at first he saw as a threat, for the new larger Germany might steal the leadership from France and upset the delicate balance of the Paris-Bonn axis. Later, however, he recovered his poise and threw his efforts into securing the Maastricht treaty, on the road to monetary union. He and Chancellor Kohl shared the same basic strategy of seeking to anchor Germany tightly into an integrated European Union, as a guarantee against new German adventurism. This policy, often derided in Britain, remained the constant of the later period of Mitterrand's long and tortuous career from the 1940s.

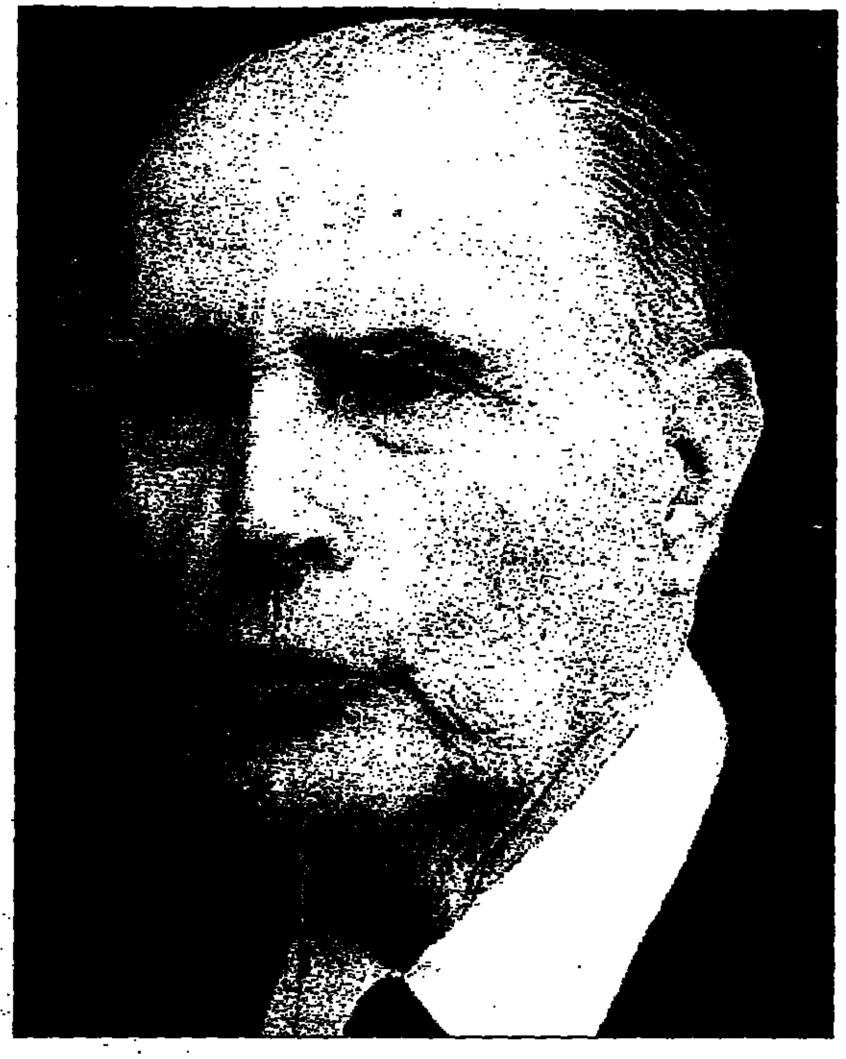
François Maurice Mitterrand was born at Jarnac (Charente) where his father ran the family vinegar works, having previously worked for the railways as stationmaster at nearby Angoulême. Both his parents were erudite: but it was his remarkable mother, a devout but broad-minded Roman Catholic, who did most to imbue him with a love of literature, to encourage him to write and to surround him with strict moral principles. And, though later his faith lapsed, this high-minded religious upbringing left its mark on his character, and perhaps helped to explain his desire always to test himself to the limits.

He took a degree in law and political science at the University of Paris. At this period, in the late 1930s, he held naive right-wing views, like many students of that time, and even took part in pro-Fascist marches and supported the ultra-nationalist Croix-de-Feu movement (but there is no evidence that he was anti-Semitic). In the army in 1940 he was wounded and captured, then spent 18 months in German PoW camps where, with typical tenacity, he made three attempts to escape, finally succeeding.

Back in France, he won a job in Vichy's intelligence service and became an active supporter of that regime. He filled in files on Communists, Gaullists and other "enemies" of the State, and was decorated by Pétain. It was only at the very end of his life that the facts of this pro-Vichy role emerged and he confessed to it: until then, he had always claimed that his Vichy work was a cover for Resistance activities (but French opinion had its doubts).

By late 1943, however, he was a committed Resistance leader, and was delegated to go to see de Gaulle in Algiers. The two men never got on: but Mitterrand's qualities shone brightly enough for him to be given a post in the General's first, temporary government. After a flirtation with journalism, he opted to enter politics: he joined a small centre party and in 1946 was elected a deputy for the Nièvre department of northern Burgundy, and later Mayor of one of its little towns, Château-Chinon — a local power-base that he kept until he became President.

In 1947, aged only 30, he became Minister for ex-Servicemen; and over the next 11 years, through the shifting coalitions of the Fourth Republic, he was a minister ten times. He emerged as a talented, forceful figure but also as something of a trimmer — and certainly no man of the Left. True, as Minister for Overseas Territories in the early 1950s, he promoted some autonomy for the African colonies: but later, as Minister of the Interior, he backed the official cause of "Algérie Française", and as Justice Minister in 1956 he connived at army rough-handling of FLN suspects. It was hardly an inspiring liberal record.



It was Mitterrand's dislike of de Gaulle, as much as anything, that determined his future career on the Left. After the General's return to power in 1958, he moved firmly into opposition, denouncing his style of rule as "a permanent *coup d'état*". In the presidential election of 1965 he took the reins of the Left in his hand and dared to stand against de Gaulle: he knew he could not win, but his creditable 44.8 per cent of the vote established him as the main opposition leader. But then the 1968 student and worker uprising caught him off balance: he made a clumsy and premature bid to assume power, which fell flat and discredited him.

There followed a period in the wilderness. By now, Mitterrand had decided that his best future lay with the Socialist Party, which was in disarray and looking for a new leader. So, at the decisive Epinay Congress of 1971, he got himself elected to that position — and along with it he espoused, with some misgivings, the whole battery of French Socialist anti-capitalist dogma. He was authoritative enough to impose some degree of unity on an amicable rag-bag of a party, and thus to launch its long march towards power. In the 1974 presidential election, the very narrowness of his defeat by Valéry Giscard d'Estaing (he polled 49.2 per cent) served, if anything, to consolidate his position.

Mitterrand never liked the Communists, but he saw that the only way to power lay through alliance with them. It proved a rough marriage. A Joint Programme was signed in 1972, but it broke down for a while in 1977-78 and the Left thus failed to win the general election of 1978. However, by the end of Giscard's mandate in 1981, the country was in a mood for change: the Centre-Right had been in power for 23 years, Giscard had been piling up blunders, and so the floating middle-class voter felt finally prepared to risk a left-wing "adventure". These were the factors that brought Mitterrand into the Elysée Palace on May 10, 1981, with 51.7 per cent of the vote.

His reign began in a "state of grace", as he called it, a national mood of euphoric excitement that swept along even many sceptics. He dissolved parliament, enabling the Socialists to romp home with a huge majority; he also sought to reassure, and formed a Government led by moderates such as its Prime Minister, Pierre Mauroy. But Mitterrand and the party were also pledged to a programme of radical change, aimed at decisively weakening the grip of capitalism in France, and this they swiftly set about implementing. Several big industrial groups were nationalised, together with 36 private banks.

Above all, in a twofold bid to promote social equality and to solve a difficult economic situation, Mitterrand embarked on a Keynesian reflation policy of a kind that by then was totally out of fashion in the West. He poured money into welfare benefits, raised minimum wages, massively created new public service jobs, imposed new taxes on companies and on the rich.

The Left cheered. But by mid-1982 the economic results were becoming all too plain. The trade deficit was soaring, inflation was up to 14 per cent, and — worst of all for the Socialists' image — unemployment, too, was rising fast, for the new public jobs were far out-weighed by the impact of company bankruptcies. The reflation policy had failed badly, and Mitterrand knew it. His honeymoon with the French people seemed at an end.

He appeared to be in some doubt as to what to do. Some of his ministers and close advisers urged him to leave the European Monetary System, pull up the drawbridge of protectionism, and thus to save the reflation policy. Others, notably Mauroy and Jacques Delors, then Finance Minister, argued that this would be crazy: France was not, and could not be, Castro's Cuba. Mitterrand, never much of an economist, dithered for a while, genuinely torn; but finally, sided with Delors. It was probably his "European" instinct that guided this decision. He saw that a nation of France's importance simply could not go it alone within the monetarist West, and could not to this extent break ranks with West Germany. So he devalued the franc in return for a revaluation of the mark, and embarked on austerity measures that put paid to the costly largesse launched in 1981. Having ruled out protectionism, he had no other option.

This proved to be the most crucial turning point in the thinking and behaviour of the Left in postwar France. Mitterrand's "conversion to economic realism" (as most observers put it) meant that he now espoused the market economy and began even to praise free enterprise. And such was his personal authority that he pulled most of the Socialist Party with him towards the centre: its semi-Marxist left wing, hitherto so vocal and influential, became strangely silent.

The austerity programme at first caused a slump in Mitterrand's popularity ratings. Many hard-left voters were furious with him, while the bourgeoisie remained mistrustful. But the President and his ministers stuck to their guns, and this soon paid dividends. By late 1984, inflation was halved and the trade deficit sharply reduced, while new investment was helping industry to modernise. The economy was back in fairly good shape — but this did not save the Socialists from defeat in the general election of March 1986.

Mitterrand dealt very skilfully with the Communists during these years. In 1981 he gave them four junior ministries, so as to buy the party's acquiescence and that of its powerful trade union. Then, in 1984, angry at the austerity programme, they pulled out of the Government. This might have benefited them; but, in fact, it added to their isolation and to the archaism of their image, and in 1986 their vote plummeted to below 10 per cent. By refusing to compromise with them, and by modernising his own party, Mitterrand helped to hasten their decline, so that they ceased to be a major force in French politics. It had been a bit of a gamble, but it worked.

Despite the initial economic mistakes, his Government's overall record of reform in the 1981-86 period can be judged as extremely positive. In the fields of human rights and social progress, he abolished the death penalty, gave better protection to coloured immigrants, obliged the police to behave more gently, modernised the labour laws, and doubled the state budget for the arts. He was a little less keen than some of his chief ministers on the regional devolution package that was the Government's major innovation, but he let it go through. As for the controversial nationalisations, they did much less harm than the Right had first feared; they even helped some big firms to restructure and become profitable again.

After 1983, with Socialist dogma in full retreat, Mitterrand presided over price decontrol and other financial liberalisations. And he bowed to public pressure by abandoning plans to incorporate church schools into the state system, long a tenet of party doctrine.

In the foreign field, Mitterrand began in 1981 with a flourish of support for the Left in Central America that angered Washington. Later this gave way to more traditionally assertive policies nearer home, with the sending of troops into Lebanon, and others into Chad, against Gaddafi. Mitterrand underlined his tacit support for Nato by backing Chancellor Kohl in 1983 on the cruise and Pershing II missiles issue; but he kept open France's cherished bridges to Russia, by his own visits to Moscow and by being one of the first in the West to invite Gorbachev.

These independent, if sometimes ambiguous, policies went down well with French opinion. But when, in 1985, the Greenpeace fiasco led to the resignation of Mitterrand's old and trusted friend Charles Hernu, the Defence Minister, the President's own involvement in the sinking of the *Rainbow Warrior* in Auckland remained murkily unclear.

The Socialists' defeat in March 1986 was followed by the famous "cohabitation" period, 1986-88, a novelty in French politics. When the Right won those elections, Mitterrand's mandate still had two years to run: he chose not to resign, but had no other option than to appoint a Prime Minister acceptable to Parliament, and he picked the most obvious one, Jacques Chirac. These two men, so different but both so strong in personality, then proceeded to work together fairly well. "Cohabitation" would have been inconceivable even ten years earlier, and its relative success was a mark of how far Mitterrand had helped to break down the old polarisation.

Mitterrand astutely stayed aloof from the daily fray, thus avoiding the odium for the Government's various failures which instead fell largely on Chirac — and this put the former in the stronger position of the two for the next presidential contest, in May 1988. Mitterrand, now over 70, was tempted to retire from public life. But he did stand again for a second term, and he beat Chirac by an easy 8 per cent margin. Again he dissolved parliament, enabling the Socialists once more to ride in on the crest of his own success — but this time with a far smaller majority than in 1981. As a mark of conciliation, he chose as Premier his old Socialist rival and critic, Michel Rocard, and he discreetly supported Rocard's moves to form some entente with the Centre. Both men saw eye-to-eye on the desirability of seeking consensus in French society, and of subtle, gradual change rather than the radical reformism of the early 1980s.

Perhaps as a sign of his old age, Mitterrand in this later period became ever more withdrawn and aloof, detached from domestic affairs. Some critics began to accuse him of the monarchical tendencies to which Fifth Republic Presidents so easily fall prone. Perhaps there were some excesses, such as the extravagant glory-making that surrounded the celebrations of the Revolution's Bicentenary in July 1989. But Mitterrand's love of grandiose regal design has also left its mark on the French capital, through a number of expensive and high-profile architectural works that do not suit all tastes, but are certainly impressive — the Louvre pyramid, the Bastille Opera, the La Villette science complex, the giant cube of L'Arche at la Défense, and so on. He saw these as a key element in his plan to promote a French cultural renaissance based on Paris: "We are laying the base for a new urban civilisation," he said, though one critic retorted that he was "suffering from a Louis XIV complex".

Until around 1990, Mitterrand's reputation remained high, and he seemed in his best form both in France and abroad. But then, starting with his clumsy attempt to stop German unification, he made a series of uncharacteristic errors of judgment; and as the Socialists' standing slumped badly at home, so did his own.

At home, in May 1991, Mitterrand dismissed Michel Rocard though he was doing quite well, and appointed Edith Cresson (rumoured to be a former *amour* of his) as France's first woman Premier. This lively but provocative lady made some highly tactless remarks in public, about the Japanese and "les Anglo-Saxons", and in more serious ways, too, proved inadequate for the job. Under pressure, Mitterrand was obliged to rescind his rash choice. In April 1992 he replaced Cresson with the soberly reliable Pierre Bérégovoy, Finance Minister and his long-time friend.

Partly in an effort to bolster his own position, Mitterrand then decided to seek a virtual plebiscite by putting ratification of the Maastricht Treaty to a referendum, though he need not have done so. In the vote, the "yesses" prevailed by a mere 51 to 49 per cent; many people voted "no", simply against Mitterrand; others were voicing the growing Euro-scepticism of a nation hitherto so Europhile. His rash gamble almost failed and this did not help him.

At the same time, the Socialists were in dire trouble: several of their leaders were now caught up in a startling series of scandals, involving bribery, embezzlement, even criminal negligence. The odium spilt on to Mitterrand, whose 20 per cent popularity rating was the lowest of any Fifth Republic President. Growing recession and unemployment also fuelled discontent. And in the National Assembly elections in March 1993, the Socialists were routed, losing 207 seats.

Historians will long debate how far Mitterrand himself was to blame for this débâcle. He may not have been directly involved in the corruption, but possibly he knew about some of it (as maybe he did with *Rainbow Warrior*), and this the public sensed. He was criticised for having failed to give the party the kind of moral leadership it needed; for having failed to complete its 1980s reform by helping to endow it with a coherent modern programme and message; and for using favouritism in his choice of leaders.

At 76, the President now faced a new "cohabitation", before his mandate ended in 1995. Maybe he should have resigned: but he stayed on, through a mix of pride and public duty. As Prime Minister of the new centre-right coalition, he chose Edouard Balladur of the RPR, a cautious, very capable man who proved a success. And Mitterrand got on with him even better than he had with Chirac: with his own eyes on his place in history, and Balladur's on the Elysée, it was in neither's interests to rock the boat. By reason of his age and the scale of Socialist defeat, the President was more weakly placed than in 1986-88: so this time he kept a lower profile, interfering little in Balladur's handling of home affairs, though still keeping some control of foreign and defence matters (he vetoed plans for new nuclear bomb tests). After the awful 1990-93 period, the resilient old fox quietly made some form of comeback.

On the foreign scene, Mitterrand, during his last years in power, pursued a clear policy of giving humanitarian and material help to suffering war-torn peoples. Thus France sent far more troops into Bosnia with the UN than any other nation; it helped the Somalis; and in June 1994 it was the first to put forces into Rwanda. Even if tinged with prestige-hunting, this policy was sincere and admirable. In 1990-91 Mitterrand also had a "good" Gulf War: that is, he took a big part militarily in the UN action against Iraq, while making his own diplomatic moves distinct from the US. This won him respect.

But within Europe his touch became less sure during this period, and it seemed that he failed to grasp the full significance of the dramatic changes which were taking place in the East. After the Berlin Wall fell, he at first spoke against German unity and even tried to win assurances from Gorbachev that it would not be allowed. But then he surrendered to the inevitable and later he was able to repair most of the damage done to his crucial alliance with Bonn.

He and Helmut Kohl always recognised their huge need for each other and, though differing on a number of issues, and in ideology, they worked quite well together. Mitterrand even managed to woo the Nato-inclined Kohl into a close defence co-operation symbolised by the Franco-German-led European Corps. And in tacit return for Kohl's support for monetary union, he modified French objections to enlarging the EU into Eastern Europe. As a prime creator of "Maastricht" and of the single market he also acted in close entente with his fellow French Socialist, Jacques Delors, President of the Commission. All in all, Mitterrand's belief in "Europe" was always a bit of an enigma, like his Socialism, and like the man himself: but he held to it amid the growing doubts of the 1990s.

This reserved and detached figure was seldom given to easy bonhomie. And it was often hard to identify his opinions and convictions. He was not a practising Christian, but he had a pantheistic feeling for nature and landscape that verged on the mystical; above all, he loved trees, and would go for long solitary walks in the forests around his summer home at Latche near the Landes coast. Equally he loved browsing in old bookshops, and in his own published books he showed fine gifts as a stylist. Sometimes he said that he might have preferred to devote himself to literature, not politics.

In his relations with colleagues he showed a strong authoritarian streak, and was often hard on subordinates. He could even be coldly cruel: after the Socialists' débâcle in 1993, his cool refusal even to speak to Pierre Bérégovoy was said to be one factor that drove his former close friend to suicide. Mitterrand's secretive, Florentine trait showed itself in his dislike of round-table meetings and preference for one-to-one contacts: this could be hard on his advisers, who sometimes felt that he was playing one off against another. He was on "tu" terms with few people, and his suspicious attitudes towards those outside his own circle contrasted with his warm loyalty towards his close friends — people of all kinds, some of them businessmen and a few of them Socialist. He inspired great loyalty in return — and even colleagues who found him maddening, such as Michel Rocard, were fascinated by him.

At the end of his life, Mitterrand suffered from cancer of the prostate and was twice operated on. In 1994 this worsening of his health coincided with the publication of a book, written with his co-operation, that finally revealed the truth about his Vichy past, and about his close postwar friendship with a former Vichy police chief, René Bousquet. This sick and aged man then went on television for 90 minutes to claim that history would pardon him for his wartime role. When Mitterrand finally retired at the end of his second term, in May 1995, he left a legacy of very mixed feelings. Many of his left-wing supporters felt that he had abandoned the Socialist cause. More widely, too, many French felt that towards the end he had become apathetic, even cynical, about the growing corruption which touched even his own entourage, and that he had failed to give France any positive moral leadership in a troubled time. On the other hand, he was admired for his stoical fight against cancer, and for his successful cohabitation with Balladur.

In 1944 he married Danielle Gouze, a nurse, who throughout her life devoted herself to human rights causes and helping oppressed minorities, quite separately from her husband. She and their two sons survive him.

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مكتبة الأهل

Manager of the month for December scoops £500 without need for transfer system

Garfoot benefits from victory of forgotten heroes

In football, as in everything in life, you sometimes need a little luck. Until now, luck had been thin on the ground for Robert Garfoot. He has never won any competition, so the realisation that he was the Interactive Team Football (ITF) manager of the month for December — and the winner of £500 — has started his 1996 off on an unexpected high note.

Mr Garfoot had forgotten all about his team in the rush leading up to Christmas, although as a keen Liverpool supporter he had kept an eye on the mighty Red Machine as it relaunched its Premiership challenge. But, unbeknown to him, his ITF team were racking up 121 points during December.

The team is headed by Robbie Fowler, of Liverpool. "He's my star man," Mr Garfoot said. "He's been knocking them in left, right and centre and he's been great for me."

He was surprised, however, that the team as a whole had done so well. "I've got some players in there from QPR and Southampton and those teams haven't been doing that well. But I have got the best of their players — guys like Impey and Gallen — and their individual performances are maybe better than their team's showing."

Mr Garfoot's full squad is: manager: Clarke (Nottingham Forest); Southall (Everton), Jones (Liverpool), Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur), Monkou (Southampton), Unsworth (Everton), Batty (Blackburn Rovers), Sherwood (Blackburn Rovers), Bart-Williams (Nottingham Forest), Impey (Queens Park Rangers), Fowler (Liverpool), Gallen (Queens Park Rangers).

A taste of victory has renewed Mr Garfoot's enthusiasm and he is now determined to study the form and venture into the transfer market for the first time. And he knows where he will spend his money, especially the winner's cheque. "I'm looking to start my own catering business here in Lincoln and the £500 will be going towards that."

Whether you are new to the transfer system, like Mr Garfoot, or an old hand, you can use it to improve your fortunes. The ITF system allows you to change up to two players each week. You must replace the outgoing player with one from the same category (ie, a full back with a full back) and keep within your £35 million budget.

The ITF transfer system also allows you to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership. He would then no longer be eligible for ITF and would have to be replaced.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touchtone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touchtone), call the **0891 333 331** line during the times given. Calls will be charged at 39 pence per minute cheap rate, 49 pence per minute at other times. If you are calling from the Republic of Ireland, you must call **004 499 020 0631** and you will be charged 58 pence per minute at all times.

You may make up to two transfers a week. A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category — for example, a full back for a full back — so that the formation of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players, two strikers and a manager is maintained.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the £50,000 prize or the monthly £500 prizes.

With ITF, not only are you pitting your selectorial skills against other readers of *The Times*, you are also matching your wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association, Premiership players have entered sides of their own, and Darren Peacock, of Newcastle United, gives his selection on the opposite page. Like him, you may spend £10 million on Alan Shearer — but will he do better than cheaper alternatives?

All matches in the Premiership and those in the FA Cup involving Premiership clubs count and your players and manager win *and* lose you points. With Gohils Gods the new leaders of the competition, is it time for you to delve into the transfer market?

☐ ***All transfer queries regarding Interactive Team Football should be directed to 0171 757 7016. Other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.***

THE TIMES ITF INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

Les Ferdinand, left, scored the equalising goal for Newcastle against Chelsea on Sunday. Is he a wise choice in the IT at £8 million?

THE WEEK'S TRANSFERS IN ITF

IN

Code	Player	Club	Value
21304	D Stefinovic	Sheff Wed	£2.5m
31105	M Duberry	Chelsea	£2.5m
40508	M Ford	Leeds Utd	£1.0m
41209	A Clarke	Arsenal	£1.5m
51306	D Kovacevic	Sheff Wed	£3.0m
51706	R Ekelund	Man City	£2.5m
52005	N Blake	Bolton	2.5m
62002	C Todd	Bolton	£0.5m

OUT

Code	Player	Club	Value
21703	D Brightwell	Man City	£0.75m
31703	M Vonk	Man City	£1.0m
40504	D White	Leeds Utd	£1.50m
40907	S Osborne	QPR	£1.50m
42005	M Patterson	Bolton	£0.75m
50304	G Bull	Nottm Forest	£0.75m
62001	R McFarland	Bolton	£0.50m

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All FA Carling Premiership and FA Cup matches in the 1995-6 season count for points. Every goal and penalty counts

POINTS SCORED

Goalkeeper		**Striker**	
Keeps clean sheet*	4pts	Scores goal	2pts
Scores goal	3pts	**All players**	
Full back/Central defender		Appearance†	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	**Manager**	
Scores goal	3pts	Team wins	3pts
Midfield player		Team draws	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt		
Scores goal	2pts		

POINTS DEDUCTED

Goalkeeper		Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	2pts	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender		Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Scores own goal	1pt
All players		**Manager**	
Sent off	3pts	Team loses	1pt

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 333 331

'Calls cost (per minute) 39p cheap rate, 49p other times. Rep: 58

If calling from the Republic of Ireland, call 004 499 020 06

You can make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN, which must be tapped in and not spoken. Follow the simple instructions and use the players' *five-digit codes.*

The line is open from 6am on Tuesday until 11am on Saturday; from 6pm on Saturday to 11am on Sunday and from 6pm on Sunday until 3pm on Monday. If there are midweek matches, the lines will also close at 3pm on the day of the match (or matches) and re-open the following day at 6am.

You may make up to (but no more than) two transfers a week. Each transfer is seperate transaction and you must sell a player before you can buy one.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category - for example a *full back for a full back.*

When purchasing a player you must ensure that the team value still falls within our £35 million budget (even if your next transfer would rectify any overspending) and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registed. The score of the player transferred out is taken at the time of transfer; he then ceases to score for you.

Player code

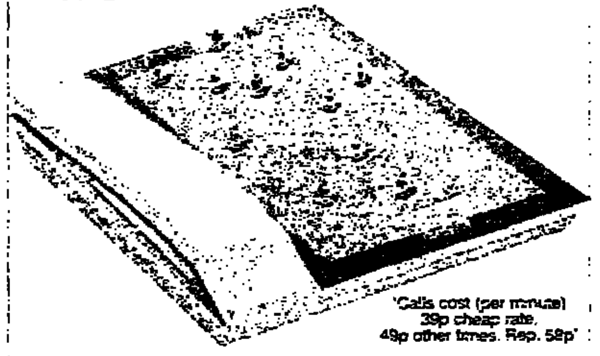
Player out .... ☐☐☐☐☐
Club ....

Player In .... ☐☐☐☐☐
Club ....

THE LEADING 250 SELECTORS IN INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Gohils Gods 65	(Mr B Gohil)	396
2	Kevins Kickers	(K James)	386
3	Teddy Five	(Mr B Bear)	369
4	Snort And Stubbs	(K Booth)	356
5	Jones Boys Six	(M L Jones)	351
6	Steves Lions 2	(S Brewer)	349
7	Aberspurs	(G Shand)	347
8	Steves Lions 5	(S Brewer)	344
8	Fergies Fury	(P Simpson)	344
10	Steves Lions 7	(S Brewer)	343
11	Sharon's Buds	(Mr D Conroy)	342
12	Phsyco And Smither	(K Booth)	341
13	Tommy Cockles XI	(Mr P Johnson)	340
13	Percys Progress	(M Persich)	340
15	Rosies Supers	(P Sutton)	339
15	Phychic T V	(T Vardy)	339
15	—	(J Nicholl)	339
15	Shrew Voles	(H Brasher)	339
19	Kims Kickers	(G Sutton)	338
19	Jesmond 1860	(S Murray)	338
21	The Young Guns	(B Shepherd)	336
21	Gutlord Marching	(Mr J M Harris)	336
21	My Cat Bailey	(Mr P Johnson)	336
24	Who Needs Mark	(N Persich)	335
24	Nigels Right Foot	(Mr D Patel)	335
24	The Good Bad & Ugly	(K Booth)	335
27	Steves Lions 8	(S Brewer)	334
27	—	(P Hanna)	334
27	Dwayne Dribblers	(A J Philcox)	334
27	Martinets 5	(T Martin)	334
31	Firefly City	(I Harrison)	333
31	Tyes Blue Noses	(Mr S Tye)	333
31	Jacobookie FC	(Mr A P Jacobucci)	333
31	Fair Fair Flapster	(C Woodward)	333
31	Jessicas Darlings 4	(Mr A Nadison)	333
31	Partick Thistle	(C Nicol)	333
37	The Wee One Too	(A Nelson)	332
37	Goal Diggers	(C Stacey)	332
37	Burnwell United	(R Banham)	332
37	Strangers	(Mr G Banks)	332
37	Rassell 3	(D Shuter)	332
42	Steves Lions 6	(S Brewer)	331
42	The Cake Eaters	(Mr S Hughes)	331
42	Al's Alsorans	(A Hancock)	331
42	Carling XI	(P Parke)	331
46	Sunderland Stars	(K Brown)	330
46	Razor's Raiders	(R A Knowles)	330
46	Nirvana FC	(Mr J Donovan)	330
49	Harrington Inter	(Mr D Lovell)	329
49	Foxton Rangers	(J Lees)	329
51	No Fear Utd	(G Saunders)	328
51	Barrys Army	(J P Barry)	328
51	Kisspurs Five	(E J Kisby)	328
51	Twighlight United	(P C Dilworth)	328
55	Steves Lions 1	(S Brewer)	327
56	Scol Utd	(B Scollick)	326
56	Formby Flyers	(A Norton)	326
56	Transporter	(A Jenkinson)	326
56	Map 9	(M Priestley)	326
56	Loxton's Longshots	(C Loxton)	326
61	KP Fantasy Team 4	(K R Patel)	325
62	Saltzburg United	(Mr P J Davies)	324
62	Cameron Athan	(Mr J R Reader)	324
62	Adams Man Or God 4	(R Pike)	324
62	Poundswick Pupils	(J Plater)	324
66	Mean Machine	(Ramesh Patel)	323
66	Commuting Eleven	(B Evans)	323
66	They're Here	(Mr P Johnson)	323
66	Megs Eleven	(T Becker)	323
70	Nokia Rangers	(Mr A G W Whyte)	322
70	Good Times United	(Mr T Stableford)	322
70	Map 6	(M Priestley)	322
70	Mercer's Men	(D Bowtors)	322
70	—	(—)	322
70	Francis Caldwell F C	(F Caldwell)	322
70	Clares Ducks	(T Collier)	322
77	Chip N' Dale XI	(Mrs E L Arrowsmith)	321
77	Winters Wanderers	(Mr A F Winter)	321
77	Woodstock XI	(Kr Grogan)	321
77	Real Atheletic	(Mrs G Keynes)	321
77	Mama Runua FC	(J Andreas)	321
77	Rainbow Connection	(G Weeks)	321
77	Onceinabluemoon	(Mr D Clarke)	321
77	Apollo 2	(S Lazarids)	321
85	Lemonias	(Mr P Gregoriou)	320
85	Estuary	(Mr P Giles)	320
85	Map 5	(M Priestley)	320
85	Bohinen Forest	(S Burn)	320
85	Jones Boys Four	(L M Jones)	320
90	Jaynes Jugs	(K Hughes)	319
90	Hirams 1st 11	(R Hiram)	319
90	M I Blues	(P C Harden)	319
90	Betley Reserves	(Mr M Wasik)	319
90	Nadar	(Mr A Neviazsky)	319
95	Novocastrians	(E Donald)	318
95	Incetla	(B Daly)	318
95	The Doug Hutches	(M Stacey)	318
95	The Conjurers	(Mr D J Farmer)	318
95	Pursell Rangers	(F R Macdonald Pursell)	318
95	The Otters	(O Millar)	318
95	Boing Boing Baggy	(T Horne)	318
95	Vesuvio	(G Batchelor)	318
95	Wotnoshearer	(K Booth)	318
95	The Sackers	(G Langley)	318
95	Abenbury Villa	(J S Dhesi)	318
106	Partisans	(E Donald)	317
106	Nookies Bears	(S Cozens)	317
106	Mac United	(T McCluskey)	317
106	Mimosa United	(M Armitstead)	317
106	The Black Knights	(R A Green)	317
106	Jovial Utd	(Mr N Hurst)	317
106	Evans Men	(W Doyle)	317
106	The Likely Lads	(G Pedder)	317
106	Bassetts Bouncers	(J Hurd)	317
115	Turners Earners	(P Turner)	316
115	Warren Wizards	(J Buckle)	316
115	Derby Rams	(G B)	316
115	Gary Pearce	(G D Pearce)	316
115	Skylights	(J Dale)	316
115	Eggs N'ham	(Mr D Warner)	316
115	Overhill Rovers	(Mr M James)	316
115	OHME	(R Matthewson)	316
123	Boogie Meisters	(B Robinson)	315
123	—	(N Thompson)	315
123	Just For Fun	(R B Nicholson)	315
123	Glasso's Goers	(J I Glassbrook)	315
123	Orbital Brushes	(Mr S Brocom)	315
123	No Sam Today	(N Webb)	315
123	Pig In A Poke	(Mr J Waters)	315
123	Sky Blue Royles	(R G Foster)	315
123	The UK Beavers	(J Elkins)	315
132	Melds Skill Monsters	(M Meldrum)	314
132	Quinton Forest	(J Baker)	314
132	Robbo's Army	(P Callaghan)	314
132	Gatto Nero FC	(E Scaletta)	314
132	Monster Monster	(M Parish)	314
132	Don Shuter C	(D Shuter)	314
132	Ramsden Raiders 2	(Mr A Shah)	314
132	Egerton Park	(D Rhoades)	314
140	Reza Rovers	(Mr Paglian)	313
140	Anti-Saints	(J Lowson)	313
140	Rescue City	(J Sanderson)	313
140	Score A Bundle	(S A Billingham)	313
140	Taste Of Aberdeen	(S Bradbury)	313
140	JSJ 16	(J Sutton-Jones)	313
140	Good-Time Boys	(R P Crook)	313
140	—	(Mr I Ahmad)	313
140	Alis Tartan Army	(A A Gordon)	313
140	Turners Earners 2	(P Turner)	313
150	Jap 11	(J Parkin)	312
150	Accrington Offie	(Mr M Raja)	312
150	Rempstone Rovers	(N A Woodroffe)	312
150	Bloomsbury City	(C Speakman)	312
150	I Love Esther	(Mr P Johnson)	312
150	Lancers United	(Mr M M Kirkwood)	312
150	Allstars XI	(D Dunn)	312
150	Langton Longshots	(J Ward)	312
150	Switcheroo	(A Richardson)	312
150	Swerve FC	(A Morris)	312
150	The Rampant Rams	(Nr Afzal)	312
150	Gohils Gods 73	(Mr B Gohil)	312
150	Madrid Knights	(R Jenkinson)	312
150	Welldon Wanderers FC	(S Lee)	312
150	Very Forward	(A Pearse)	312
165	Hull Red Devils	(G Foster)	311
165	All Hallows	(J Mc Cormack)	311
165	Premier Choice	(S Ireland)	311
165	All Stars	(C Laws)	311
165	S Express FC	(S O'Toole)	311
165	Royle's Rangers	(P M Evans)	311
165	Its A Mugs Game	(K Booth)	311
165	Dyer Straights	(Mr M S J Dyer)	311
165	Tiles 'R' Us FC	(M Bywater)	311
165	The Entertainers	(L Rappe)	311
165	Rory's Rovers	(J Weall)	311
165	Armarch	(A Matthewson)	311
177	Doug's Desperados	(Mr D F Richardson)	310
177	Walkers Crispest	(Mr M D Walker)	310
177	Always Hope	(Mr R Foster)	310
177	Pilkys Pirates	(R R Pilkington)	310
177	Synthetic Dozen	(Mr J Donaldson)	310
177	Ennerdale	(T Rudd)	310
177	Choppers Eleven	(Mr P Chambrs)	310
184	County Pine A	(J Hunt)	309
184	Nobby One	(A Brown)	309
184	Garden FC	(K Wan)	309
184	Nippers	(K Hughes)	309
184	Readman Rockets	(P Readman)	309
184	Wannabee Stars	(A P Harris)	309
184	Cimbom Blues	(N Jones)	309
184	Master Side	(C Davenport)	309
184	Semit ITF	(Mr F Arnone)	309
184	Clarkies Kickers	(G Clarke)	309
184	Chumpdoria	(T Hibbs)	309
184	Adams Man Or God 1	(R Pike)	309
184	Supabyks 3	(G O'Donnell)	309
184	Chipchase Rovers	(S Allan)	309
184	Moneybags United	(P Ettridge)	309
184	Fantasy Formbook	(Mr G Crutchle	309
184	The Premier Raiders	(Miss C Elia)	309
184	The Bunderers	(R J Smith)	309
184	—	(Mrs S Carter)	309
203	Richies Rovers	(R Lovell)	308
203	County Pine O	(J Hunt)	308
203	Norman	(T Sigsworth)	308
203	County Pine N	(J Hunt)	308
203	Your Stars	(A Clarke)	308
203	Not So Super Bob	(R Williams)	308
203	Tunde United	(Dr T Adetunji)	308
203	Psst Eindhoven	(Mr A Shelley)	308
203	Of Armstrong Yes	(C Hyde)	308
203	Mountain Eleven	(Mr D Bain)	308
203	The Minds Fibled	(R J Danavell)	308
203	—	(P Hutchinson)	308
203	No Hopers	(S Harris)	308
203	Roker Rovers	(D Milbourn)	308
217	Ruefull Rabbits	(J Whateley)	307
217	Finglen Flyers	(E Ronald)	307
217	Chosen Men	(J McCracken)	307
217	Alan's All Stars	(A Niblock)	307
217	Street FC	(S Bartlett)	307
217	The Solboys	(D Hoskins)	307
217	Eskimo Eleven	(S Carroll)	307
217	Les Gagnants	(P Crosby)	307
217	Burst The Net	(A Hearn)	307
217	Wheres Botham	(Mr P Johnson)	307
217	Merts Mates 20	(Mr M Hitzi)	307
217	Bezs Bruisers	(Mr B Harwood)	307
217	Farleigh Vale	(E Layet)	307
217	Baker's Baggies	(S Baker)	307
217	Mark's Maestroes	(M Kelly)	307
217	Daniel James Utd	(S Reynolds)	307
217	Andys Athletic	(A R Howse)	307
217	Henry Hilda	(Mr T Thompson)	307
217	Reds & Blues	(J Lloyd)	307
217	The Mainstacs	(B Whitney)	307
217	Petersonians	(J Paterson)	307
217	Bal's Team	(B Ghuman)	307
217	Fraser Dribblers	(G Glenahan)	307
217	Possibles	(D Black)	307
217	Strike FC	(A Koutsoudis)	307
242	Ciro Chic Casuals	(D F King)	306
242	Tonys All Stars	(A Boyland)	306
242	Mighty Reds	(T Lewis)	306
242	C	(M Corless)	306
242	Blackpearls	(W Gayle)	306
242	Darkins Dazzlers	(A Darkins)	306
242	Death Or Glory	(A T Davies)	306
242	The Mighty Dunston	(Dr Hall)	306
242	J K's Dolphins	(J F Kitchen)	306

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



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Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. The line is open from noon today

The players' weekly and overall scores and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Peacock's position in Newcastle's defence has given him the chance to gauge Premiership strikers at close quarters

Peacock's proud display

Darren Peacock, a central defender for Newcastle United, picks his ITF team

HALFWAY through the season andl am *fourth in the players' table. am l? That is* not bad. Still, there is a long way to go: it *is a marathon not a sprint. I can come out* with all the clichés, just like a typical manager.

My team is called MBL's, although I have no idea why. I picked the side pre-*season and I cannot remember what the* name means. It is not the team I would *like, it is the team I could afford.*

I started with Alan Shearer, who cost *me £10 million, but he is always worth* the money for the number of goals he scores. Then I picked the rest of the team down the middle of the field — Bosnich in goal and the two centre halves — but *the choices all came down to money.* Once the key players were in position, I pulled the rest out of a hat.

If I could change the rules, I would have picked most of the Newcastle team, but we are not allowed to pick players from our own club, which prevents that idea. Still, we have to pick our own manager and, after Shearer, Kevin *Keegan is my top points scorer, so I* cannot complain there.

The midfield players have done quite well for me, although Andy Sinton has not played much, so has not got me that many points. I knew Gary McAllister would score a few goals: he gets a few *from free kicks and is also a penalty-taker* for Leeds, so there were points to be had there. Then there is David Batty. Although Blackburn did not have the best *of starts to the season. Batty earned some* points by scoring a goal the other week. *He is also a good*, solid player who puts a lot into his football. Hopefully, if Blackburn continue to show their best form, I will profit from it.

Andy Impey was an easy choice. He *plays for my former club, Queens Park* Rangers, so I knew what sort of player he would be in the team. *That is why I also* chose David Bardsley and Clive Wilson *— I know them as players and I know* what they can do.

Mark Bosnich was a good selection. Aston Villa have one of the best defensive records in the FA Carling Premiership, which means Bosnich has kept quite a few clean sheets this season — and that means more points for me.

Paul McGrath is a great defender, so *he was a good choice for my team. How* old is he now? 45? Well, maybe not quite, *but he still keeps going and going. I think* he has been injured, but he will be back — he always is. These days he does not bother so much with training, he turns out only for the games, but he is still a *great player. I hope I am still going at his* age.

By the time I came to pick my second striker, I was looking for someone inexpensive. It was a toss-up who to choose — there are not many inexpensive players around — but I went for Mixu Paatelainen. With Bolton's record, he is not going to win me the league, but then *again he has earned a few points and he* cost only £750,000, so it is not that bad.

The transfer market has not tempted me yet. To be honest, I picked the team and left them to get on with it. But so far they have not done too badly for me. I am 37 points behind Jan Molby at the top, so *I hope that I can close the gap.*

PEACOCK'S TEAM

Goalkeeper:	M Bosnich	(Aston Villa)	£2.5m
Full backs:	C Wilson	(Tottenham)	£2.5m
	D Bardsley	(QPR)	£2.0m
Centre backs:	P McGrath	(Aston Villa)	£1.5m
	D Walker	(Sheff Wed)	£2.5m
Midfielders:	A Impey	(QPR)	£1.5m
	G McAllister	(Leeds Utd)	£4.0m
	D Batty	(Blackburn)	£1.5m
	A Sinton	(Sheff Wed)	£2.0m
Strikers:	A Shearer	(Blackburn)	£10.0m
	M Paatelainen	(Bolton)	£0.75m
Manager:	K Keegan	(Newcastle)	£4.0m

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts	
				Wk	Ov
0101	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	+10	-6
0102	B Mimms	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	-1
0201	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	-3	-1
0301	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-8	-22
0302	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0
0401	D James	Liverpool	3.50	+2	+17
0402	A Warner	Liverpool	0.25	0	0
0501	J Lukic	Leeds United	3.00	0	-11
0502	M Beeney	Leeds United	0.75	+2	+3
0601	P Smicek	Newcastle United	3.00	+4	+4
0602	M Hooper	Newcastle United	1.00	0	0
0603	S Hislop	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+4
0701	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-2	0
0702	E Thorstvedt	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0
0801	A Roberts	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-7
0802	S Dykstra	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	0
0803	J Sommer	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	+2	-20
0901	H Segers	Wimbledon	1.50	-5	-7
0902	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	0.75	-1	-1
0903	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-38
1001	B Grobbelaar	Southampton	1.50	0	0
1002	D Beasant	Southampton	0.75	+4	-8
1101	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	-2	+8
1102	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	1.00	0	0
1201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	-4	+21
1202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.50	0	0
1301	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-8	-32
1302	C Woods	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	0
1401	L Miklosko	West Ham United	2.50	+5	-10
1402	L Sealey	West Ham United	0.50	0	0
1501	N Southall	Everton	2.50	-6	+7
1502	J Kearton	Everton	0.75	0	0
1601	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	-2	-19
1602	J Gould	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
1603	J Filan	Coventry City	1.50	0	-35
1701	A Coton	Manchester City	2.50	0	0
1702	A Dibble	Manchester City	2.50	0	0
1703	E Immel	Manchester City	2.00	+4	-12
1801	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	2.50	+10	+24
1802	N Spink	Aston Villa	1.00	0	-1
1901	A Miller	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+3
1902	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	0.75	-4	+3
2001	K Branagan	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-2	-59
2002	A Davison	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts	
				Wk	Ov
0101	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	+8	+15
0102	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	0	+3
0103	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	+8	+24
0201	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.50	-2	+10
0202	P Parker	Manchester United	2.50	-3	0
0203	G Neville	Manchester United	2.50	-4	-3
0204	P Neville	Manchester United	0.75	-3	+6
0301	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	4.50	0	+16
0302	D Lyttle	Nottingham Forest	3.00	-3	+8
0303	A Haaland	Nottingham Forest	1.00	-3	-12
0401	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	0	+23
0402	S Bjornebye	Liverpool	3.00	0	+4
0403	S Harkness	Liverpool	0.75	+2	+26
0501	T Dorigo	Leeds United	3.50	-1	+7
0502	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	+2	+11
0503	N Worthington	Leeds United	1.50	+3	+2
0601	J Beresford	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+12
0602	M Hottiger	Newcastle United	3.00	0	0
0603	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	+3	+21
0701	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	+6
0702	J Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	-1	-4
0703	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	+3	+22
0704	D Kerslake	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0
0705	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+7
0801	D Bardsley	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	-1	-5
0802	R Brevett	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-3
0803	N Zelic	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	0	-3
0901	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.50	-2	-5
0902	G Elkins	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-8
0903	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	1.50	-2	-14
0904	R Joseph	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
1001	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50	+4	+16
1002	F Benali	Southampton	1.00	-1	+4
1003	S Charlton	Southampton	1.00	+5	+10
1101	S Clarke	Chelsea	1.50	-1	+4
1102	S Minto	Chelsea	1.50	0	+3
1103	G Hall	Chelsea	0.50	0	+9
1104	A Myers	Chelsea	0.50	0	+16
1105	T Phelan	Chelsea	1.50	0	0
1106	D Petrescu	Chelsea	2.50	+1	+16
1201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	-1	+31
1202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	-2	+28
1203	S Morrow	Arsenal	1.50	0	0
1302	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-3	-2
1303	P Atherton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-2	-6
1401	J Dicks	West Ham United	3.50	+3	+3
1402	T Breacker	West Ham United	3.00	0	-12
1403	K Brown	West Ham United	0.75	0	0
1404	K Rowland	West Ham United	0.75	0	+9
1501	G Ablett	Everton	2.50	+2	+12
1502	E Barrett	Everton	2.50	0	+4
1503	M Jackson	Everton	1.50	-3	+10
1504	P Holmes	Everton	0.50	0	-2
1601	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
1602	A Pickering	Coventry City.	1.00	+3	-2
1603	S Morgan	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
1604	M Hall	Coventry City	0.75	0	-19
1702	R Edghill	Manchester City	1.50	0	-1
1703	D Brightwell	Manchester City	0.75	0	0
1704	J Foster	Manchester City	0.75	0	-1
1801	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	+8	+30
1802	S Staunton	Aston Villa	4.50	0	+3
1803	A Wright	Aston Villa	2.50	+11	+32
1804	P King	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
1805	B Small	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
1901	C Blackmor	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	0
1902	N Cox	Middlesbrough	1.00	-1	+22
1903	C Morris	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+24
1904	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.50	-1	-6
2001	G Bergsson	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	-16
2002	S Green	Bolton Wanderers	0.25	+1	-12
2003	J Philips	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	+1	-17
2004	A Todd	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	-1	-6
2005	S McAnesp	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	+1

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts	
				Wk	Ov
0101	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	+4	+19
0102	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+3
0103	N Marker	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	+4	+3
0104	A Reed	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	0
0105	C Colema	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+8	+11
0201	S Bruce	Manchester United	4.50	-1	+9
0202	G Palliste	Manchester United	4.50	-1	+16
0203	D May	Manchester United	1.50	0	-1
0301	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.50	-4	+13
0302	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	3.00	-3	+3
0401	P Babb	Liverpool	3.00	-1	+16
0402	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.50	0	+21
0403	J Scales	Liverpool	3.50	+3	+6
0404	M Wright	Liverpool	1.00	+1	+21
0405	D Matteo	Liverpool	0.75	0	+4
0501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	3.50	-1	+11
0502	C Palmer	Leeds United	3.00	+3	+9
0503	J Pemberton	Leeds United	1.50	0	-1
0505	P Beesley	Leeds United	1.00	0	+1
0506	R Jobson	Leeds United	1.50	+2	+4
0601	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.00	+4	+8
0602	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	+3	+24
0603	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	+4	+22
0701	G Mabbutt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+16
0702	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+13
0703	S Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	-1	-4
0704	K Scott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0	0
30705	J Cundy	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
30801	D Maddix	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-8
30802	S Yates	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-5
30803	A McDonald	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	+4	+6
30805	K Ready	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	-6
30901	A Reeves	Wimbledon	2.50	-2	-4
30902	A Thorn	Wimbledon	0.75	0	-4
30903	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.75	0	-8
30904	C Perry	Wimbledon	1.00	-2	-18
30905	A Pearce	Wimbledon	2.50	0	-2
31001	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	+4	+9
31002	A Neilson	Southampton	1.50	+4	+10
31003	R Hall	Southampton	1.50	0	+4
31101	E Johnsen	Chelsea	1.50	0	+14
31102	J Kjeldbjerg	Chelsea	1.50	0	0
31103	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	0	+3
31104	D Lee	Chelsea	0.75	0	+16
31201	T Adams	Arsenal	4.50	-2	+28
31202	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	-1	+23
31203	M Keown	Arsenal	1.50	-2	+18
31204	A Linighan	Arsenal	1.50	0	-4
31301	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-2	+2
31401	S Potts	West Ham United	2.50	+3	+8
31402	M Rieper	West Ham United	2.50	+3	+6
31403	A Martin	West Ham United	1.00	0	+21
31405	A Whitbread	West Ham United	0.50	0	0
31501	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	-2	+21
31502	D Watson	Everton	2.50	-3	+12
31503	C Short	Everton	2.50	0	+17
31602	D Rennie	Coventry City	0.75	0	-7
31603	D Busst	Coventry City	0.75	-4	0
31604	B Borrows	Coventry City	1.50	0	-9
31605	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	-15
31701	K Curle	Manchester City	1.50	+4	+5
31702	A Kernaghan	Manchester City	1.00	0	-1
31703	M Vonk	Manchester City	1.00	0	0
31704	K Symons	Manchester City	1.50	+4	+8
31801	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	2.50	+8	+28
31802	P McGrath	Aston Villa	1.50	0	+11
31804	C Tiler	Aston Villa	0.75	0	+1
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	0.75	-1	+16
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	0.75	-1	+25
31903	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-3
31904	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+14
32001	A Stubbs	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	+1	0
32002	C Fairclough	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	+4	-16
32003	S Coleman	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	0
32004	G Taggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	+3	-9
32005	G Strong	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts	
				Wk	Ov
40102	D Batty	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+25
40103	J Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	0	0
40104	T Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+1	+26
40105	S Ripley	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	+4	+26
40107	P Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+1
40109	M Holmes	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	+1	+7
40110	L Bohinen	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	+2	+30
40111	W McKinlay	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+3	+5
40112	G Fenton	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	+1
40201	R Giggs	Manchester United	5.50	+2	+33
40202	R Keane	Manchester United	2.50	+2	+16
40203	L Sharpe	Manchester United	3.00	0	+15
40205	N Butt	Manchester United	2.00	+4	+23
40206	D Beckham	Manchester United	0.75	+1	+28
40207	S Davies	Manchester United	0.75	0	+1
40302	C Bart-Williams	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+2	+19
40303	I Woan	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+3	+29
40304	S Stone	Nottingham Forest	4.00	+4	+34
40305	D Phillips	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	+9
40306	S Gemmill	Nottingham Forest	2.00	+1	+17
40307	K Black	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0
40401	S McManaman	Liverpool	6.50	+3	+39
40402	J Redknapp	Liverpool	2.50	0	+21
40403	J Barnes	Liverpool	3.00	+3	+32
40404	P Stewart	Liverpool	1.50	0	0
40405	M Thomas	Liverpool	1.50	+2	+6
40406	M Walters	Liverpool	1.50	0	0
40407	N Clough	Liverpool	1.50	0	+2
40409	M Kennedy	Liverpool	2.00	0	+1
40410	J Molby	Liverpool	1.50	0	0
40411	J McAteer	Liverpool	4.00	+5	+20
40501	G McAllister	Leeds United	4.00	+5	+37
40502	G Speed	Leeds United	4.00	+5	+29
40503	R Wallace	Leeds United	2.50	0	+9
40504	D White	Leeds United	1.50	0	+5
40505	L Radebe	Leeds United	0.75	0	0
40506	M Tinkler	Leeds United	0.50	0	+3
40507	A Couzens	Leeds United	1.00	0	+1
40601	R Lee	Newcastle United	4.50	+2	+41
40603	D Ginola	Newcastle United	4.50	+5	+31
40604	K Gillespie	Newcastle United	4.00	0	+28
40605	L Clark	Newcastle United	1.50	+1	+24
40607	S Watson	Newcastle United	1.50	0	+7
40608	C Holland	Newcastle United	0.75	0	0
40609	R Elliott	Newcastle United	0.75	+1	+1
40701	D Anderton	Tottenham Hotspur	6.50	0	+3
40702	D Howells	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	+23
40703	J Dozzell	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0	+14
40704	D Caskey	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	+1	+1
40705	G McMahon	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	+7
40706	I Dumitrescu	Tottenham Hotspur	4.00	+1	+5
40707	R Fox	Tottenham Hotspur	6.00	+1	+24
40801	S Barker	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	0	+19
40802	I Holloway	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	+1	+14
40803	A Impey	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	+3	+28
40805	T Sinclair	Queens Park Rangers	3.00	+4	+29
40807	S Osborne	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	+9
40808	G Goodridge	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	0
40901	V Jones	Wimbledon	2.00	+1	+9
40902	R Earle	Wimbledon	2.50	+2	+38
40903	M Gayle	Wimbledon	1.50	+2	+14
40904	O Leonhardsen	Wimbledon	2.50	+4	+26
40905	N Ardley	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
40906	P Fear	Wimbledon	0.75	0	+3
41001	J Magilton	Southampton	3.00	+7	+34
41002	N Maddison	Southampton	2.00	+1	+15
41003	N Heaney	Southampton	2.50	+4	+14
41005	D Hughes	Southampton	0.75	0	+6
41006	T Widdrington	Southampton	1.00	0	+16
41007	B Venison	Southampton	1.50	+2	+11
41101	D Wise	Chelsea	5.00	+2	+32
41102	R Gullitt	Chelsea	4.00	+1	+22
41103	G Peacock	Chelsea	3.00	0	+17
41104	D Rocastle	Chelsea	1.50	0	+1
41105	N Spackman	Chelsea	0.75	0	+7
41106	C Burley	Chelsea	1.00	0	+13
41108	E Newton	Chelsea	0.75	+2	+24
41201	G Helder	Arsenal	4.00	+1	+17
41202	P Merson	Arsenal	4.00	+2	+39
41204	R Parlour	Arsenal	2.00	+1	+13
41205	E McGoldrick	Arsenal	1.00	0	0
41206	D Hillier	Arsenal	1.00	0	+2
41207	J Jensen	Arsenal	1.00	+1	+11
41208	D Platt	Arsenal	4.50	+1	+25
41301	J Sheridan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+7
41302	A Sinton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	+1	+8
41303	C Waddle	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	+2	+24
41304	G Hyde	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+9
41305	K Ingesson	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+5
41306	R Jones	Sheffield Wednesday	0.75	0	0
41307	M Williams	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0	+2
41308	L Briscoe	Sheffield Wednesday	0.75	0	+8
41309	M Pembridge	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+18
41401	J Moncur	West Ham United	3.00	+5	+16
41402	D Hutchison	West Ham United	5.00	0	+11
41404	M Allen	West Ham United	2.00	0	+4
41405	I Bishop	West Ham United	1.50	+3	+27
41406	D Gordon	West Ham United	1.00	0	0
41409	R Slater	West Ham United	1.00	+1	+15
41410	S Lazarides	West Ham United	1.00	0	+2
41411	M Hughes	West Ham United	2.00	+5	+20
41412	D Williamson	West Ham United	1.00	+3	+9
41501	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	5.00	0	+12
41502	J Ebbrell	Everton	1.50	+4	+20
41503	A Limper	Everton	2.50	0	+23
41504	B Horne	Everton	1.50	+2	+13
41505	V Samways	Everton	1.50	0	+5
41506	J Parkinson	Everton	1.00	+1	+25
41508	A Grant	Everton	0.50	0	+2
41509	A Kanchelskis	Everton	6.00	+2	+34
41601	P Cook	Coventry City	2.00	0	+2
41602	K Richardson	Coventry City	1.50	+1	+15
41603	G Strachan	Coventry City	1.50	0	+2
41607	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50	+4	+25
41608	M Isaias	Coventry City	3.00	0	+9
41609	C Batista	Coventry City	1.00	0	0
41610	J Salako	Coventry City	2.50	+4	+29
41701	G Flitcroft	Manchester City	2.50	+3	+14
41702	P Beagrie	Manchester City	3.00	0	+3
41703	S Lomas	Manchester City	1.50	+3	+21
41704	I Brightwell	Manchester City	1.50	+3	+14
41706	N Summerbee	Manchester City	1.50	+3	+25
41707	G Kinkladze	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+28
41801	A Townsend	Aston Villa	2.00	+4	+17
41802	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.00	0	+25
41803	G Southgate	Aston Villa	2.00	+4	+27
41805	F Carr	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
41806	M Draper	Aston Villa	2.50	+6	+34
41901	C Hignett	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+25
41902	A Moore	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+1
41903	J Moreno	Middlesbrough	1.00	+1	+2
41904	R Mustoe	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+14
41905	J Pollock	Middlesbrough	2.00	+4	+24
41906	B Robson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+2
41907	Juninho	Middlesbrough	5.00	+2	+13
42002	D Lee	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+6
42003	A Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+13
42004	R Sneekes	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	+3	+11
42005	M Patterson	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	+8
42007	W Burnett	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0
42008	S Sellars	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	+2	+12
42009	S Curcic	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	+8	+10

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts	
				Wk	Ov
50101	A Shearer	Blackburn Rovers	10.00	+2	+61
50102	C Sutton	Blackburn Rovers	7.00	0	+7
50103	M Newell	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	+2	+18
50104	K Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+1	+2
50105	N Goodm'dsson	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	0
50201	E Cantona	Manchester United	7.50	+4	+24
50202	A Cole	Manchester United	7.00	+4	+32
50203	B McClair	Manchester United	3.00	0	+16
50204	P Scholes	Manchester United	2.50	0	+28
50301	B Roy	Nottingham Forest	6.00	+1	+21
50302	K Campbell	Nottingham Forest	2.50	+2	+13
50303	J Lee	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	+26
50304	G Bull	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	0
50305	A Silenzi	Nottingham Forest	3.50	0	+1
50401	R Fowler	Liverpool	8.00	+8	+57
50402	S Collymore	Liverpool	7.50	+10	+30
50403	I Rush	Liverpool	3.00	+2	+17
50501	A Yeboah	Leeds United	7.50	+4	+43
50502	B Deane	Leeds United	2.50	+3	+22
50503	P Masinga	Leeds United	1.50	0	+2
50506	T Brolin	Leeds United	5.00	+1	+10
50601	L Ferdinand	Newcastle United	8.00	+6	+59
50602	P Beardsley	Newcastle United	5.00	+2	+25
50603	P Kitson	Newcastle United	2.50	+1	+3
50604	M Allen	Newcastle United	0.50	0	0
50605	D Huckerby	Newcastle United	0.50	0	0
50701	E Sheringham	Tottenham Hotspur	6.00	+4	+49
50702	C Armstrong	Tottenham Hotspur	4.00	+6	+32
50704	R Rosenthal	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	+3	+24
50801	K Gallen	Queens Park Rangers	4.50	0	+15
50802	B Allen	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	+4	+3
50803	D Dichio	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	+22
50805	M Hateley	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	0	+4
50901	D Holdsworth	Wimbledon	4.00	+3	+29
50902	J Goodman	Wimbledon	1.50	0	+14
50903	M Harford	Wimbledon	1.00	+2	+10
50904	G Blissett	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
50905	A Clarke	Wimbledon	0.75	0	+2
50906	E Ekoku	Wimbledon	2.50	+4	+21
50907	J Euell	Wimbledon	1.50	0	0
51001	M Le Tissier	Southampton	8.00	0	+17
51002	N Shipperley	Southampton	2.50	+4	+30
51003	G Watson	Southampton	2.00	+1	+15
51004	C Maskell	Southampton	0.75	0	0
51101	M Hughes	Chelsea	4.00	+2	+22
51102	M Stein	Chelsea	2.50	0	+6
51103	J Spencer	Chelsea	2.50	+2	+17
51104	P Furlong	Chelsea	2.50	+4	+9
51201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.50	+3	+34
51202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	7.50	+1	+27
51203	J Hartson	Arsenal	4.00	+1	+9
51204	C Kiwomya	Arsenal	1.50	0	0
51206	P Dickov	Arsenal	0.75	0	+4
51301	D Hirst	Sheffield Wednesday	4.00	+6	+35
51302	M Bright	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+27
51303	G Whittingham	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+2	+18
51304	O Donaldson	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	+3
51305	M Degryse	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	+2	+24
51401	T Cottee	West Ham United	4.50	+1	+29
51403	M Boogers	West Ham United	2.00	0	-3
51404	I Dowie	West Ham United	0.75	+4	+21
51501	D Ferguson	Everton	6.00	+5	+7
51502	D Amokachi	Everton	2.00	0	+17
51503	P Rideout	Everton	3.00	+2	+28
51504	G Stuart	Everton	2.00	+4	+29
51601	D Dublin	Coventry City	4.50	+2	+36
51602	P Ndlovu	Coventry City	4.00	0	+19
51605	N Lamptey	Coventry City	1.00	0	+3
51606	N Whelan	Coventry City	1.50	+4	+13
51701	U Rosler	Manchester City	5.50	+2	+23
51702	N Quinn	Manchester City	4.00	+6	+18
51705	G Creaney	Manchester City	2.50	0	+9
51801	S Milosevic	Aston Villa	4.00	+4	+36
51803	D Yorke	Aston Villa	3.00	+2	+33
51804	T Johnson	Aston Villa	2.50	+6	+19
51901	J Fjortoft	Middlesbrough	5.00	0	+23
51902	J Hendrie	Middlesbrough	1.50	+1	+6
51903	P Wilkinson	Middlesbrough	1.00	+1	+1
51904	N Barmby	Middlesbrough	4.00	+3	+29
52001	J McGinlay	Bolton Wanderers	3.00	+4	+26
52003	M Paatelainen	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	+6
52004	F De Freitas	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	+18

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts	
				Wk	Ov
60101	R Harford	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	+2	+25
60201	A Ferguson	Manchester United	4.00	0	+37
60301	F Clark	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0	+32
60401	R Evans	Liverpool	4.00	+8	+36
60501	H Wilkinson	Leeds United	3.00	+4	+28
60601	K Keegan	Newcastle United	4.00	+4	+46
60701	G Francis	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	+4	+35
60801	R Wilkins	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	+2	+7
60901	J Kinnear	Wimbledon	1.00	0	+11
61001	D Merrington	Southampton	1.50	+4	+14
61101	G Hoddle	Chelsea	2.50	+4	+27
61201	B Rioch	Arsenal	3.50	0	+29
61301	D Pleat	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	+2	+16
61401	H Redknapp	West Ham United	1.00	+2	+17
61501	J Royle	Everton	2.00	+4	+25
61601	R Atkinson	Coventry City	1.50	+4	+12
61701	A Ball	Manchester City	1.50	+4	+8
61801	B Little	Aston Villa	2.50	+6	+33
61901	B Robson	Middlesbrough	1.00	+2	+29
62001	R McFarland	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-1	-6

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THE TIMES TODAY

TUESDAY JANUARY 9 1996

NEWS

Labour's all-women lists illegal

■ Labour's election planning was thrown into confusion yesterday when its policy of preventing men from standing in dozens of parliamentary seats was declared illegal by an industrial tribunal in Leeds.

The *party immediately froze its process* to select candidates in 14 constituencies, nine of which were close to making a choice from women-only shortlists, but it is almost certain to appeal against the ruling of sexual discrimination ....**Page 1**

New York crime rate frozen

■ The New York weather was so bad that even the muggers *stayed at home*. Police said there had been no homicides, stabbings or robberies since Saturday night. There are usually three or four murders a day. Officers checking reports of naked people snowballing found they were Californians ....**Page 1**

Mitterrand dies

World leaders paid tribute to François Mitterrand, the longest-serving French President, who died from prostate cancer, aged 79. His funeral is on Thursday **Pages 1, 10, 11, 16, 17, 19**

Doctor's dog bait

An NHS trust paid £1,700 to import Fritz, the Rottweiler dog belonging to a consultant anaesthetist as part of a salary package to lure him from America, it was disclosed .... **Page 1**

Portillo anger

Michael Portillo accused enemies in the Conservative Party of running a campaign against him amid claims from his supporters of a left-wing plot to end his leadership chances..........**Page 2**

Blair's stake

Tony Blair promised that a Lab*our government would unite the* country by trying to give every citizen a stake in the economy and a sense of belonging ..**Pages 2, 16**

Ken and Emma

*The marriage of Emma Thomp*son and Kenneth Branagh had begun to founder three years before they announced their separation last October ....**Page 3**

In the rough

A champion woman golfer was suspended from her club after punching a businessman when he stroked her thigh, an industrial tribunal was told ....**Page 3**

Helicopter crash

A Scottish lighthouse keeper described the crash in dense fog of an RAF Chinook helicopter in which 25 of Ulster's top anti-terrorist experts and four crew died instantly..............................**Page 4**

Mother's sacrifice

Karine Ratcliffe, 31, who was on a Sunday walk, pushed her two young sons out of the path of a crashing car. She took the full force of the impact and was killed ....**Page 5**

Army of carers

Social work is become the fastest growing occupation with battalions of community care workers, residential care assistants and home helps recruited to look after an ageing population ....**Page 6**

Orphanage opened

China opened a Shanghai or*phanage but failed convincingly* to refute reports by a New York human rights group of deliberate starvation there ....*Page 7*

Anti-Dole drive

*Five weeks before the Iowa cau*cuses, the Republican presidential candidates have attempted to deprive Robert Dole of their party's nomination ....**Page 8**

Balloon challenge

An American banker is trying to beat Richard Branson to the title of first man to circumnavigate the globe in a balloon, the last major aviation record .... **Page 9**

Fantasy fairies float into film

■ A fairy story that fooled the public for over 60 years is to be filmed by Paramount as *The Golden Afternoon*. In 1917, two schoolgirl cousins, Elsie Wright, 15, and Frances Griffiths, 9, convinced Kodak and the novelist Sir Arthur Conan Doyle that *they had photographed fairies dancing in woods in* West Yorkshire. Elsie explained the hoax in 1983 .... **Page 6**

AFP

Michael Portillo and his Japanese counterpart, Seishiro Eto, reviewing a guard of honour in Tokyo yesterday. Page 2

BUSINESS

Economy: A surge in consumer spending during the second half could put base rates up to as much as 8 per cent in 1997, the Ernst & Young Item Club says ..... **Page 23**

Marks & Spencer: Britain's leading *retailer has appointed its first* woman to the board as an executive director. Clara Freeman, 43, is responsible for personnel .....**Page 23**

Forte: Granada will have to raise *its offer for Forte by about 15 per* cent to have a chance of overcoming Forte's defence ....**Page 23**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index closed 16.1 points up at a record 3720.6. Sterling's trade-weighted index was down from 83.5 to 83.4 after falling from $1.5530 to $1.5495 *and from DM2.2326 to* DM2.2324 ....**Page 23**

SPORT

Cricket: Jack Russell has been left out of England's team for the first one-day international against South Africa despite his excellent Test form........................ **Page 44**

Rugby union: Michael Lynagh, *captain of Australia in the last* World Cup, has signed a three-year contract with Saracens. He is at present playing for the Italian club, Treviso.............................. **Page 44**

Football: Manchester United will meet Uefa next month to demand to field as many European Union *nationals as they wish in the three* cup competitions .... **Page 44**

Racing: In a case of mistaken identity at Southwell, Loch Style ran in the name of another horse, Taniyar, in the Waterford Median Auction Stakes................ **Page 44**

ARTS

Sleaze serialised: Thirty years of sleaze in British public life is the subject of an epic drama series on BBC TV from next week, *Our Friends in the North* ....**Page 33**

Britpop triumphs: The shortlist for *the Brit Awards is dominated by* Blur, Oasis, Radiohead and Pulp. David Sinclair asks whether this means Britpop commands a disproportionate amount of attention...........................**Page 33**

Schiele on show: The finest private collection of Egon Schiele paintings *is on show in* Düsseldorf, offering a superb survey of this provocative artist..................................**Page 31**

Powerful Puccini: In Leeds, Phyllida Lloyd has revived her superbly dramatic staging of *La Bohème*...................................**Page 32**

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ *FASHION*

Style with staying power: finding a sale bargain in classic cashmere

■ INTERFACE

Reader offer: save money when you *connect to The Times* on the Internet

FEATURES

Ageless ageing, day 2: Dr Thomas Stuttaford on male potency; Alan Coren on how to behave when older; Nigel Hawkes on the importance of vitamins and other substances; Rita Carter on the healthiest foods ....**Pages 12, 13**

School contracts: Parents could soon have to sign agreements to *ensure their children attend school* and do homework. This proposal contains a serious flaw, Nigella Lawson says .... **Page 15**

BODY AND MIND

New drug: François Mitterand died of cancer of the prostate. Dr Thomas Stuttaford says it can be cured if diagnosed quickly, and a new drug can relieve pain.................**Page 14**

LAW

Privatising security: Are security officers doing as good a job as the police did in guarding the courts?..................................**Page 35**

THE PAPERS

François Mitterrand embodied the period in which he held sway. The euphoria of the early years of his presidency did not last. But for all *his failures and contradictions, he* displayed a remarkable breadth of vision. His grand projects, like the great glass pyramid at the Louvre, survive him. He left his stamp on a generation: of how many contemporary politicians can we say as much? — *Evening Standard*

[illegible]

Preview: The scandal of China's state orphanages is revealed in *Return to the Dying Rooms* (Channel 4, 9pm). **Review:** *Matthew Bond on* an air ambulance drama where sexual chemistry rules.........Page 43

[illegible]

François Mitterrand

M Mitterrand wished to go down in history as the architect of domestic social peace and European unity. History, if it acknowledges that these were indeed the driving ambitions of this most impenetrable and devious of political actors, will present a stiff reckoning .... **Page 17**

The select few

The fairest of all methods of selection for general *aptitude is still an* IQ test, combined perhaps with tests in English and maths. Children's ability should be allowed to speak for itself .... **Page 17**

Rail romance revived

From today the little Kent town of Ashford will be the doorway to a continent of adventure.......**Page 17**

[illegible]

LIBBY PURVES

I have spent magical days watching IOH director Richard Gregson and his colleagues make children whose horizon had been bounded by Michael Jackson perform short operas; the emotional force of music-drama held even the hardest case in thrall ....**Page 16**

FRANK FIELD

Under stakeholders' welfare, self-improvement would again be put at the centre of Labour's policies. A reconstituted National Insurance scheme, with benefits more clearly linked to contributions, would also open the door to a contributor-run organisation.........................**Page 16**

CHARLES BREMNER

François Mitterrand said often enough that he wanted to go down in history as the builder of the new Europe of Maastricht. Failing that, he made sure he would be remembered as the architect of the new Paris...................................**Page 16**

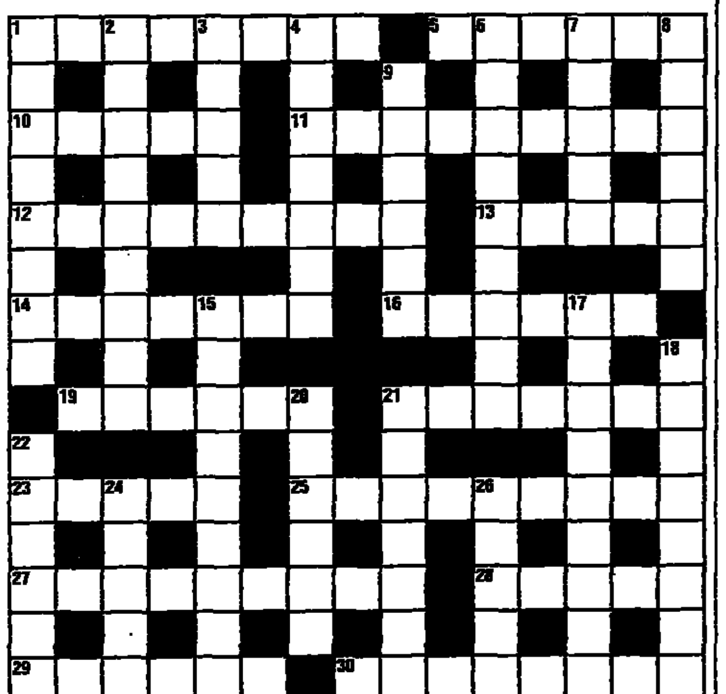
[illegible]

François Mitterrand, President of *France*...................................**Page 19**

[illegible]

Objections to Dr Masari's expulsion; benefits of recycling paper; Labour and welfare; Irish peace; Gurkha stigma ....**Page 17**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,059



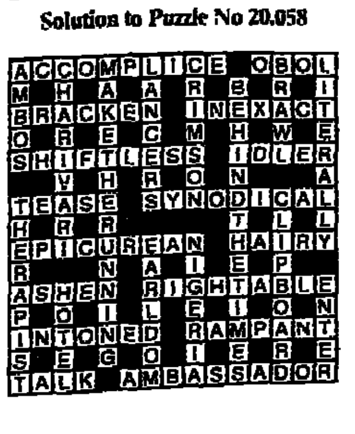
ACROSS

1 Recoil from bribe (8).
5 Representations setting motorway back by years (6).
10 Long story without point (5).
11 Collapse and sell up completely (3,4,2).
12 In a predicament as honest error repelled head (2,3,4).
13 Silly person cooking this bird ruins plan (5).
14 Found out, as Uriah was, in a way (7).
16 Corrective efforts when deserter's *apprehended in time* (6).
19 Kidnapping in US succeeded, of course, briefly (6).
21 Appropriate vessel for Cook? (7).
23 Lead removed from toy gun (5).
25 Slogan resulting from discussion with hunter, perhaps (9).
27 Reprove players taking single in front of wicket, say (9).
28 International volunteers going in first in unpleasant spot (5).
29 Doctor has to move carefully to operate on bed (6).
30 Harvest fruit crop up again (8).

DOWN

1 Principal directors needed facility to provide notes (8).
2 Skilled workers put together vessel's pieces (9).
3 Number in huge Egyptian celebration (5).
4 Acclaimed and honoured internationally with Nobel finally clinched (7).
6 *Animals collected with various* game round new lake (9).
7 Relish nothing more than a breath of fresh air (5).
8 Musicians' exercises with direction in prescribed form (6).
9 Reluctant to enter church in cloak (6).
15 *Writing characters into the script?* (9).
17 Try to put off casual worker with no increment (9).
18 One hoping to take game and depart deliriously with gold (8).
20 Seat for Jumbo pilot who had shakes (6).
21 Up*set about article, but you'll* have to accept it (2,5).
22 Held up as railway service (of top quality) departs (6).
24 Shakespearean clown's singular entry in public entertainment (5).
26 Agitated male workers getting little money (3,2).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,058



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ACCOMPLICE OBOL
M H A A R B R I
BRACKEN INEXACT
O R E C M H W E
SHIFTLESS IDLER
 V H R O N A
TEASE SYNODICAL
H R R T L L
EPICUREAN HAIRY
R N A I E P
ASHEN RIGHTABLE
P O I L E I O N
INTONED RAMPANT
S E G O I E R E
TALK AMBASSADOR
```

Times Two Crossword, page 44

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Culdrose, Cornwall, 14C (57F); **lowest day max:** Inverbervie, Grampian 7C (45F); **highest rainfall:** Plymouth, Devon 1.02in; **highest sunshine** Lerwick, Shetland 0.8hr.

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have a mainly bright morning with *showers on western coasts. Eastern* England will have a grey start with rain at times, but this will soon clear to leave a brighter afternoon.

The showers in the west will become more widespread for a time but then die out once more after dark.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a day of blustery showers, with some heavy downpours developing in *western parts during the morning. The* east will remain drier with some sunshine

☐ **London, S E England, E Anglia, E England:** cloudy, rain in the east, brighter by the afternoon. Wind southerly moderate. Mild Max 10C (50F)

☐ **Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Central N England, N E England:** *sunny spells, isolated* showers; mainly dry after dark. Wind south to southeasterly, moderate. Mild. Max 10C (50F).

☐ ***Channel Isles, S W England, S* Wales, N Wales, N W England:** bright with isolated showers; after*noon cloudy with frequent showers;* scattered showers after dark. Wind southerly fresh. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Lake District, Isle of Man, S W Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N W Scotland, N Ireland:** bright spells, showers developing, some heavy. *Wind southerly fresh or strong.* Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, N E Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** sunny spells, isolated showers. Mainly dry after dark. Wind south to southeasterly fresh or strong. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Outlook:** mainly bright with scat*tered showers, rain spreading from* the west on Thursday.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

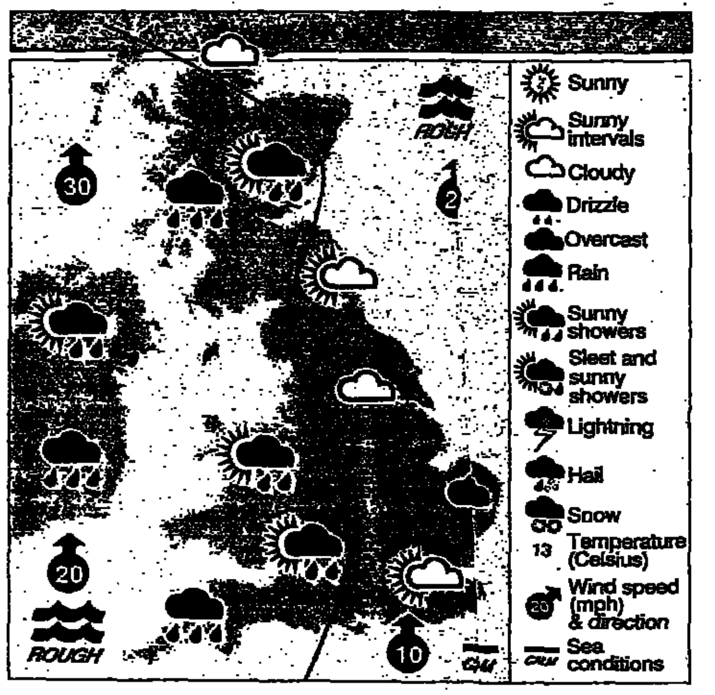
24 hrs to 5 pm. b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail, r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.05	8	46	r
Anglesey	-	0.21	11	52	r
Aspatria	-	0.04	12	54	r
Aviemore	-	0.02	9	48	c
Belfast	-	0.20	12	54	r
Birmingham	-	0.17	10	50	r
Bognor R	X				
Bournem'th	-	0.30	11	52	sh
Bristol	-	0.17	12	54	r
Buxton	-	0.31	8	46	r
Cardiff	-	0.10	11	52	r
Clacton	0.1	-	8	46	c
Cleethorpes	X				
Colwyn Bay	-	0.29	11	52	r
Cromer	-	0.01	9	48	c
Doncaster	X				
Dunbar	X				
Eastbourne	-	0.01	11	52	du
Edinburgh	-	-	10	50	[illegible]
Eskdalemuir	-	0.30	9	48	r
Exmouth	-	0.58	11	52	r
Falmouth	-	0.70	12	54	r
Fishguard	-	0.69	10	50	r
Folkestone	0.2	0.01	10	50	c
Glasgow	-	0.06	11	52	r
Guernsey	-	0.22	12	54	sh
Hastings	-	0.02	10	50	c
Hayling I	-	0.15	10	50	r
Herne Bay	0.2	-	11	52	c
Hove	0.3	0.01	11	52	c
Hunstanton	-	0.07	11	52	r
Ilfracombe	X				
Isle of Man	-	0.17	11	52	r
Jersey	-	0.10	11	52	c
Kinloss	0.5	-	9	48	c
Leeds	-	0.15	10	50	r
Lerwick	0.8	0.04	8	46	b
Leuchars	-	0.11	8	46	r
Liverpool	-	0.07	11	52	r
London	-	0.09	13	55	r
Lowestoft	-	-	8	46	du
Manchester	-	0.19	11	52	r
Margate	-	-	10	50	du
Minehead	-	0.54	11	52	r
Morecambe	-	0.14	11	52	r
Newcastle	-	0.05	10	50	r
Newquay	-	0.65	13	55	r
Norwich	X				
Nottingham	X				
Oxford	-	0.15	11	52	r
Penzance	-	0.79	13	55	g
Plymouth	-	0.98	12	54	g
Poole	-	0.30	11	52	r
Prestatyn	X	0.04	12	54	r
Ross-o-wye	-	0.57	11	52	r
Salcombe	X				
Sandown	-	0.16	10	50	r
Saunton Snd	-	0.22	12	54	c
Scarboro'	-	0.07	9	48	r
Shanklin	-	0.19	10	50	r
Shrewsbury	-	0.10	11	52	r
Skegness	-	0.05	9	48	sh
Southend	-	-	10	50	du
Southport	-	0.04	11	52	sh
Southsea	-	0.20	11	52	r
St. Ives	X				
Stornoway	-	0.15	10	50	r
Swanage	-	0.24	11	52	r
Teignmouth	-	0.82	12	54	r
Tenby	X				
Tiree	-	0.17	10	50	r
Torquay	-	0.76	12	54	r
Tynemouth	-	0.08	10	50	r
Ventnor	-	0.16	9	48	sh
West-s-mare	X				
Weymouth	-	0.29	11	52	r

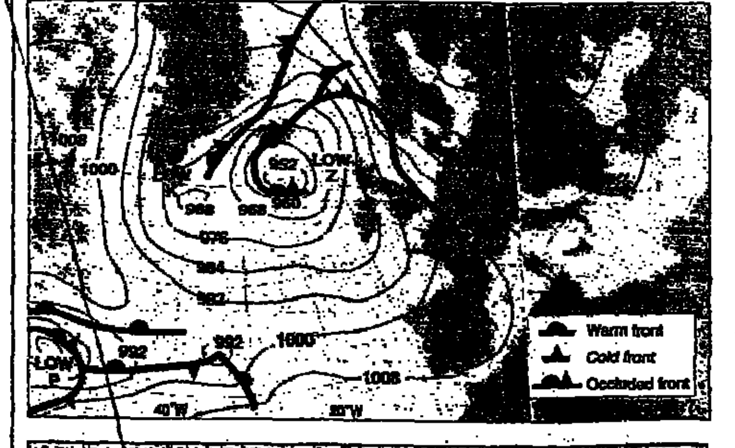
ABROAD

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	14	57	[illegible]	C'phagn	0	32	c	Majorca	18	64	s	Rome	13	55	r
Akrotiri	15	59	f	Dublin	9	48	f	Malaga	19	66	s	S Fr'isco	11	52	s
Alex'dria	17	63	f	Dubrovnik	9	48	r	Malta	18	64	s	S Paulo	27	81	c
Algiers	17	63	c	Faro	18	64	s	Melb'rne	19	66	c	Salzburg	1	34	s
Amst'dm	5	41	r	Florence	9	46	r	Mexico C	17	63	s	Santiago	29	84	s
Athens	10	50	c	*Frankfurt*	1	34	c	*Miami*	24	75	c	Seoul	5	41	r
B Aires	31	88	s	Funchal	20	68	f	Milan	3	37	r	Sing'por	29	84	f
Bahrain	21	70	f	Geneva	7	45	r	Montreal	-17	1	-	St'kholm	0	32	s
Bangkok	31	88	s	Gibraltar	19	66	s	Moscow	-9	16	sn	Strasb'rg	1	34	f
Barcelona	17	63	f	Helsinki	-3	27	c	Munich	4	39	c	Sydney	21	70	c
Beirut	15	59	f	Hong K	24	75	f	N Delhi	18	64	s	Tangier	19	66	s
Belgrade	2	36	r	Innsbrck	4	39	f	N York	-7	19	sn	Tel Aviv	12	54	r
Berlin	-1	30	s	Istanbul	5	41	f	Nairobi	27	81	f	Tenerife	24	75	s
Bermuda	17	63	f	Jeddah	26	79	s	Naples	16	61	f	Tokyo	11	52	s
Biarritz	14	57	f	Jo'burg	26	79	s	Nice	10	50	c	Toronto	-13	9	f
Bordeaux	11	52	r	Karachi	27	81	s	Oslo	0	32	sn	Tunis	20	68	f
Brussels	10	50	f	L Angels	22	72	s	Paris	11	52	f	Valencia	18	64	s
Budapest	-3	27	s	L Palmas	23	73	f	Peking	2	36	s	Vanc'ver	10	50	c
Cairo	18	64	s	Le Touquet	11	52	s	Perth	36	97	s	Venice	7	45	d
Cape Tn	24	75	f	Lisbon	17	63	f	Prague	-3	27	c	Vienna	-3	27	sn
Ch'church	18	64	c	Locarno	5	41	d	Reykjavik	6	43	f	Warsaw	-6	21	c
Chicago	-7	19	sn	Luxembg	5	41	c	Rhodes	12	54	s	Wash'ton	-8	18	sn
Cologne	5	41	c	Luxor	21	70	s	Rio de J	29	84	f	Wel'ngton	19	66	-
Corfu	15	59	f	Madrid	11	52	s	Riyadh	19	66	f	Zurich	3	37	r

Temperatures at midday local time on Sunday. X = not available



Changes to the chart below from noon: low K will remain virtually stationary and fill; low Z will dominate the situation, drifting slowly west and filling slowly; low P will track northeast and deepen



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	3.29	6.78	3.57	6.83
Aberdeen	3.20	4.07	3.27	4.19
Avonmouth	9.03	12.63	9.24	12.38
Belfast	0.42	3.17	0.58	3.55
Cardiff	8.47	11.56	9.05	11.13
Devonport	7.38	5.28	8.01	5.00
Dover	0.47	6.50	0.56	6.30
Dublin	1.17	3.79	1.39	3.99
Falmouth	6.58	4.95	7.13	4.60
Glasgow	2.50	4.26	2.57	4.75
Harwich	1.29	3.84	1.50	3.81
Holyhead	0.13	5.17	0.17	5.37
Hull	8.11	7.01	8.20	7.32
Ilfracombe	7.47	8.81	8.09	8.62
King's Lynn	8.02	6.15	8.21	6.27

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Leith	4:8	5.19	4:42	5.24
Liverpool	0:7	8.88	1:10	8.94
Lowestoft	11:1	2.29	11:35	2.50
Margate	1:3	4.61	1:55	4.43
Milford Haven	8:6	6.53	8:25	6.31
Newquay	6:9	6.47	7:16	6.26
Oban	7:3	3.91	7:55	3.75
Penzance	8:3	5.37	6:50	5.16
Portland	8:2	1.98	8:49	1.77
Portsmouth	1:0	4.57	1:11	4.51
Shoreham	0:5	5.95	0:57	5.92
Southampton	0:2	4.37	0:40	4.43
Swansea	8:17	8.96	8:37	8.71
Tees	5:31	4.89	5.46	5.12
W'ton-on-Naze	1:16	4.05	1:40	3.99

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 8.04 am

Sun sets: 4.11 pm

Moon sets: 9.22 am

Moon rises: 8.23 pm

Last quarter January 13

London 4.11 pm to 8.04 am
Bristol 4.21 pm to 8.13 am
Edinburgh 4.00 pm to 8.39 am
Manchester 4.10 pm to 8.22 am
Penzance 4.39 pm to 8.35 am

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